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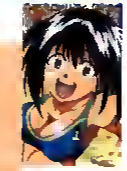
ビーチスターズ



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The Beach Stars

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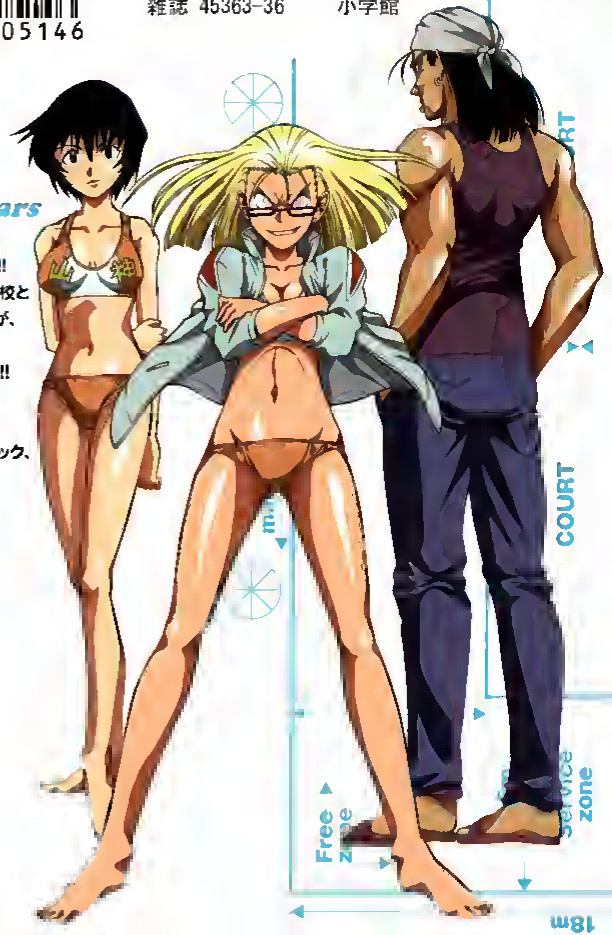

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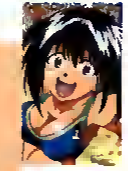

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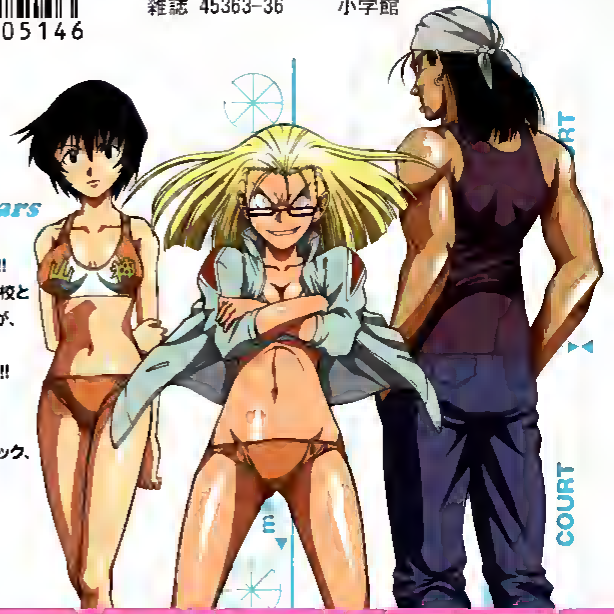

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●「青い空、白い雲、はじける女子高生。
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フィギュア化したら絶対買います!!」——秋葉原 Aメイト 秋葉原店　上野様(男)

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●「**サービス満点ですネ♥**」——新宿 K園書店 新宿本店　白岡様(女)

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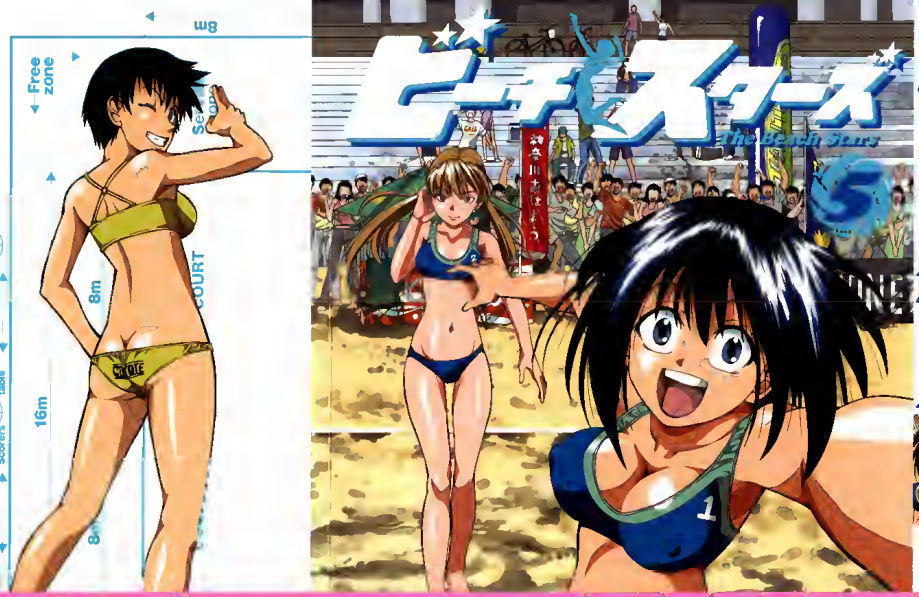
森尾正博

Masahiro Morio

1974年12月2日生まれ。福岡県出身。血液型O型。
2002年、「とったが最5!」(少年サンデー増刊秋号)でデビュー。
以後、少年サンデー読切りにて「伝説の傾宅部Returner」を連載し、
少年サンデー本誌にて連載「地球防衛パッパレーマン」を連載。
ヤングサンデーで「ピコピコ!ピコ!」を読切掲載誌
現在、初の長刊連載「ビーチスターズ」に燃えまくる毎日!!



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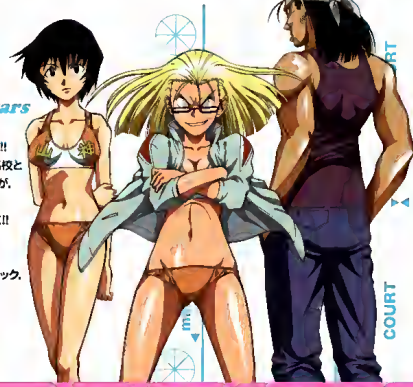

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新・爽快スポコン漫画、
週刊ヤングサンデーにて
大人気連載中!!
週刊ヤングサンデー SUNDAY

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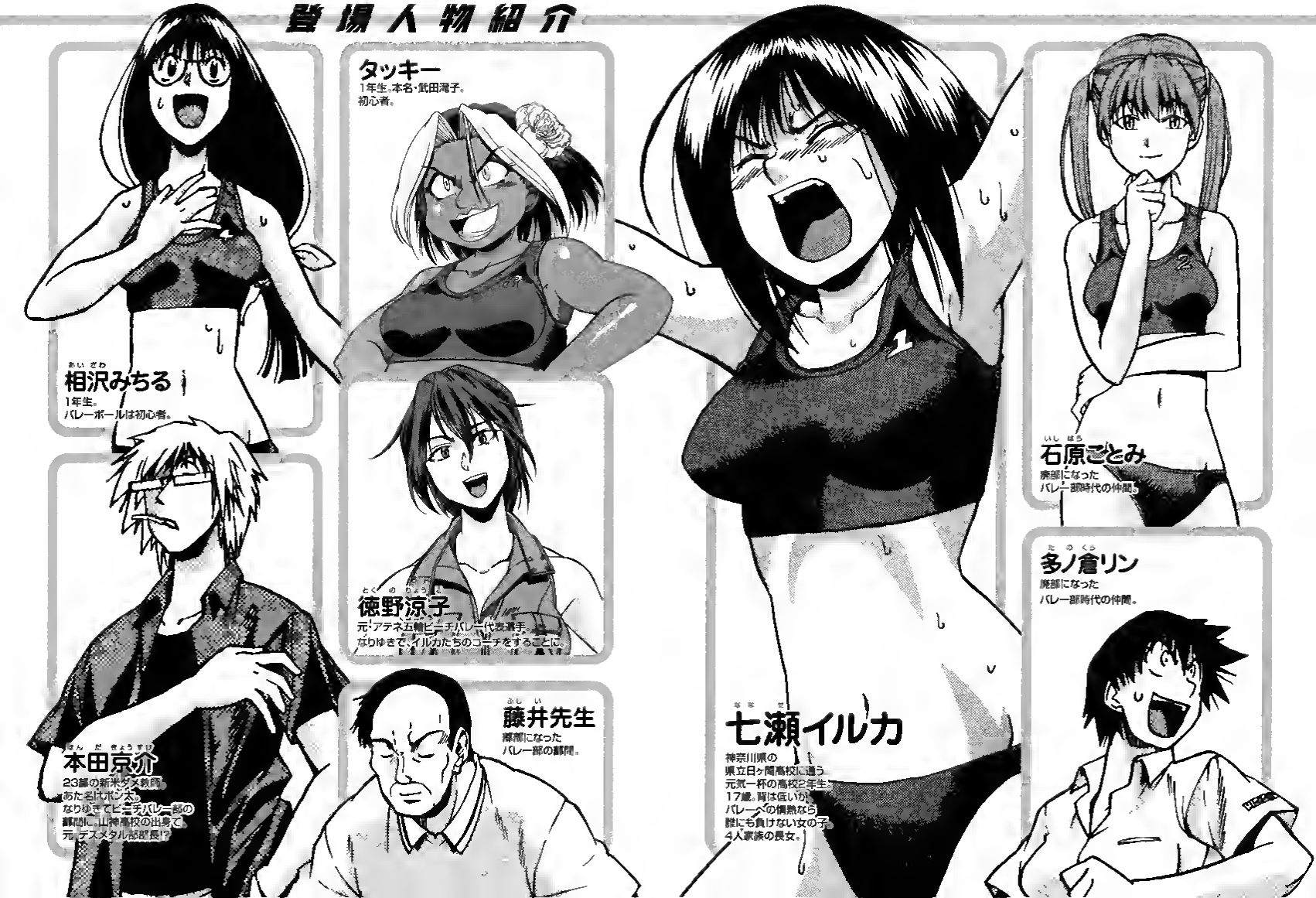
登場人物紹介



相沢みちる
1年生。
バレーボールは初心者。

タッキー
1年生。本名・武田滝子。
初心者。

徳野涼子
元・アテネ五輪ビーチバレー代表選手。
なりゆきで、イルカたちのコーチをすることに。

本田京介
23歳の新米ダメ教師。
あだ名はボン太。
なりゆきでビーチバレー部の顧問に。山神高校の出身で、元・デスメタル部部長!?

藤井先生
顧問になった
バレー部の顧問。

七瀬イルカ
神奈川県の
県立日ヶ関高校に通う
元気一杯の高校2年生。
17歳。背は低いが、
バレーへの情熱なら
誰にも負けない女の子。
4人家族の長女。

石原ごとみ
廃部になった
バレー部時代の仲間。

多ノ倉リン
廃部になった
バレー部時代の仲間。

The Beach Stars

前巻のあらすじ

「女子ビーチバレーの甲子園」と
呼ばれる、マドンナカップの
神奈川県予選大会が始まった!
全部で36組72名の
女子高校生選が、
火花を散らして戦う熱い大会だ。

我らが日ヶ崎高校ビーチバレー部からは、
イルカ・ことみペアと
タッキー・みちるペアの2チームが出場。

初心者コンビのタッキー・みちるペアも
善戦するが、3回戦で敗退。
しかし、イルカ・ことみペアは見事、
ベスト6まで勝ち進む——!!
はたして、栄冠をつかむのは……!?

早川(はやかわ)さなえ

ビーチバレー界のアイドル。高2。
実力も超一流で、
ロンドンオリンピックの
最有力候補とも言われている。
グラビアやCMでも活躍中。

リサ

タッキーの友達。

スグル・タケシ・ノブオ

ひらつかビーチパークにたむろしていた不良達3人組。
ノブオはバレーボールの強豪校・山神高校バレー部出身。
ポン太の後輩でもある。

倉地(くらち)・天野(あまの)

山神高校Aチーム。前年度優勝ペア。

The Beach Stars

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CHAPTER 41
LUNCH BREAK
The Beach Stars

The qualification rounds of the Kanagawa Prefecture for the Madonna Cup have now reached the last stretch with the beginning of the quarterfinals!!
2
On the courts arranged for this occasion, you can assist to the four amazingly fought matches simultaneously!

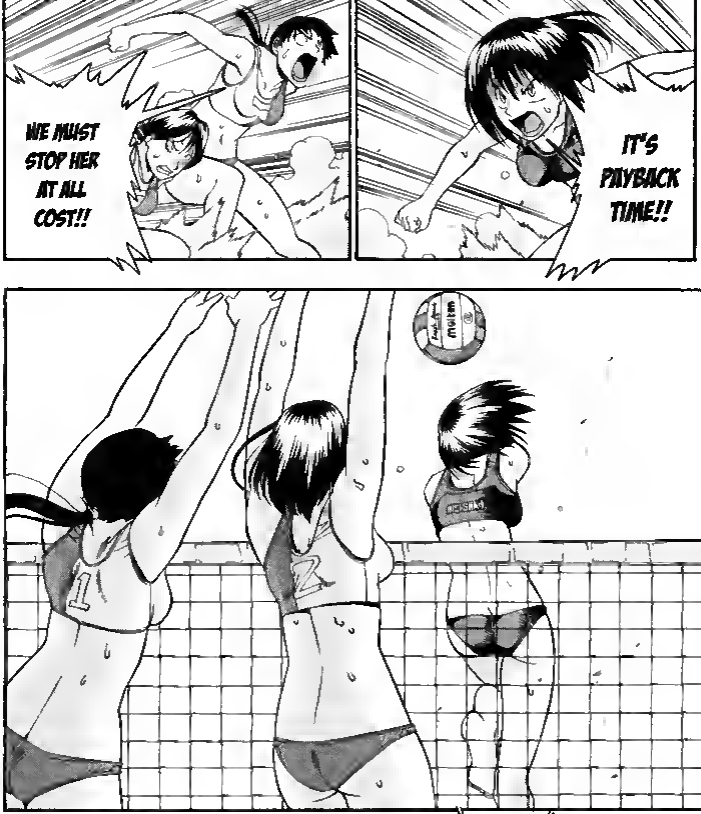
Who between Higasaki, the challenger who has soared to the fourth round, and Inamori, the top seed, will win this close match?!
ON THE FIRST COURT TEAM B OF HIGASAKI HIGH SCHOOL OPPOSES TEAM A OF INAMORI
The suspense is unbearable, my friends!!
オオオ
Higasaki (B) 16—10 Inamori (A)

Iruka Nanase from Higasaki is now serving!!

ALL RIGHT!
MIMI, THIS ONE IS ALL YOURS!!
Wow! Such a good reception!!
THERE YOU GO, TERU!
ARGH!
5
Inamori's players are in an ideal position for an offensive play, lady luck is with them!
THEY'RE ABOUT TO ATTACK! I'M COVERING THE LEFT SIDE!
OKAY, I'M TAKING THE RIGHT SIDE!

IRUKA!!
AAAH!

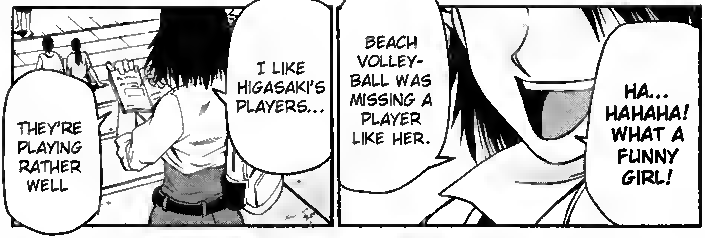
UNBE-
LIEV-
ABLE
...
A perfect reception from Nanase!!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
This reception allows her team to go on the offensive against Inamori!!
DAMN RIGHT, I WAS SCARED ON THAT ONE ...
BE CAREFUL!
I THINK THEY'LL TRY TO DOUBLE COUNTER YOU!


WE MUST STOP HER AT ALL COST!!
IT'S PAYBACK TIME!!

What!? What's happening!? Iruka Nanase turned her back towards the net!!
WHAAAT !?

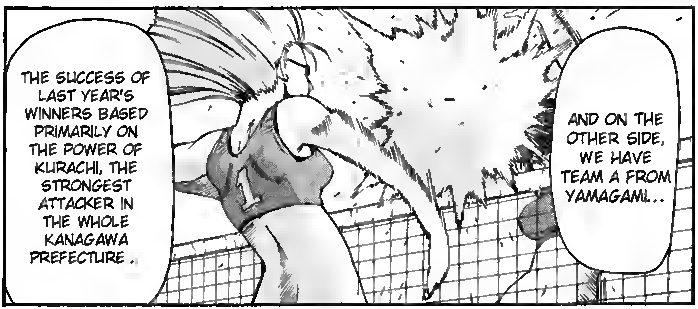
I'M DREAM-ING
A REVERSE BUMP!?

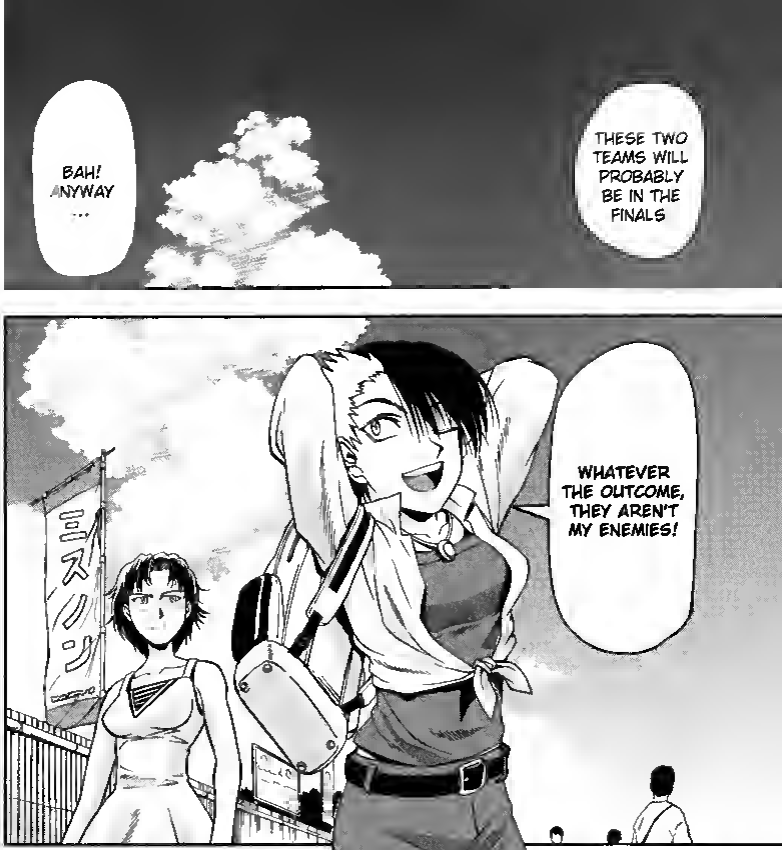
Wonderful! Iruka Nanase evaded the double counter on her and sent the ball to the side with a reverse move!!
YEEEEEES! EXACTLY AS I IMAGINED IT!
H-H-H ... HOW DID SHE DO THAT?
IT'S IN-HUMAN!


THEY'RE PLAYING RATHER WELL
I LIKE HIGASAKI'S PLAYERS...
BEACH VOLLEY-BALL WAS MISSING A PLAYER LIKE HER.
HA... HAHAHA! WHAT A FUNNY GIRL!

FOR THAT ALONE, I'LL CHEER FOR THEM.
THEY HAVE GOOD REFLEXES, ARE MAKING ACCURATE PASSES AND HAVE RICH AND VARIED ATTACKING TECHNIQUES...

11


THE SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR'S WINNERS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE POWER OF KURACHI, THE STRONGEST ATTACKER IN THE WHOLE KANAGAWA PREFECTURE.
AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, WE HAVE TEAM A FROM YAMAGAMI...

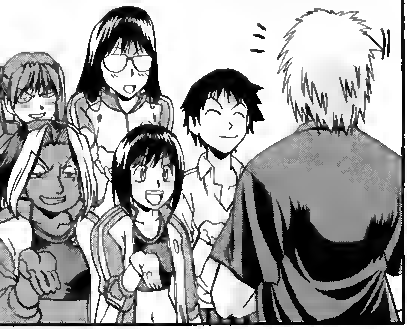

THESE TWO TEAMS WILL PROBABLY BE IN THE FINALS
BAH! ANYWAY ...
WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THEY AREN'T MY ENEMIES!

Seeing how fast it ended, we can say that the outsiders are in a hurry to reach the semi-finals!!
And the match is over!!
Higasaki (D) 21—12 Inamori (A)

IT'S REALLY AMAZING...
CONGRATULATIONS, GIRLS! I'M PROUD OF YOU!
IT WAS AMAZING! YOU ARE IN THE BEST FOUR!
SO? HOW DID YOU FIND US?
Mou-hai-ai-ai

I WAS SURE SHE WAS BORN TO PLAY VOLLEY-BALL, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO PROG-RESS THAT FAST IN ONLY A COUPLE OF MATCHES...
...SHE HASN'T REALIZED IT YET, BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT IRUKA HAS NOW REACHED THE LEVEL OF THE BEST PLAYERS OF THE PREFECTURE...

LUNCH BREAK FOR EVERYONE!
ALL RIGHT! WE CAN SAY THAT YOU WAITED AND DESERVED IT, SO..
ROGER!



IT'S 1:30PM. WE'LL MEET HERE IN ONE HOUR.
ROGER!!
MEMO

AND I WANT THE CHANGE, IF THERE IS ANY!!
YEAH, YEAH! IF THERE'S ANY...

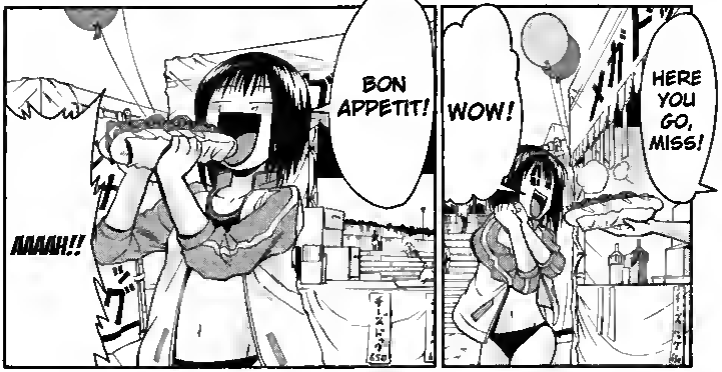
IT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE, FORGETTING THEIR LUNCH MONEY
YEAH, RIGHT.. IT WAS A MISTAKE ON MY PART...

WE GOT CAUGHT
HEY! YOU TAKE ME FOR SOME SORT OF CHARITY ORGANIZATION?! I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!
NEVER SAW A TEACHER SO CHEAP!

ALL RIGHT, IT'S COMING! JUST A SECOND...

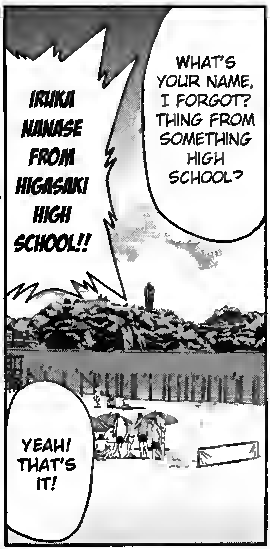
A MONSTER HOTDOG, PLEASE!

16


BON APPETIT!
AAAAH!!
WOW!
HERE YOU GO, MISS!

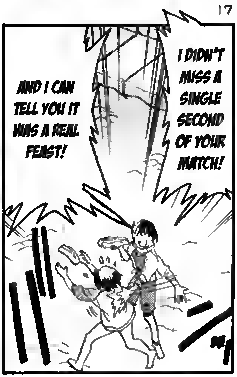
焼きそば

BUT WE WON'T SWEAT ON THE DETAILS!


WHAT'S YOUR NAME, I FORGOT? THING FROM SOMETHING HIGH SCHOOL?
IRUKA NANASE FROM HIGASAKI HIGH SCHOOL!!
YEAH! THAT'S IT!

... WAT IZ IT?

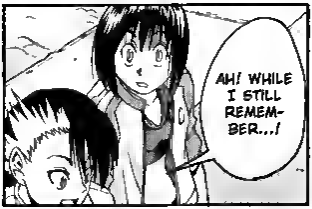
MY NAME IS HIRO! WAZZUP?
WAZZ UP?


I DIDN'T MISS A SINGLE SECOND OF YOUR MATCH!
AND I CAN TELL YOU IT WAS A REAL FEAST!

HEY, HEY!
DON'T WORRY! IF YOU WANT THE PICTURE, I'LL SEND IT TO YOU LATER!
COME ON! CHEEZE!

W...WHAT DOES SHE WANT? SHE'S REALLY WEIRD...
WE AREN'T CHILDHOOD FRIENDS! SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A TOURIST..

AND FOR THE SPIKES, YOU DON'T HAVE TO MOVE SO SOON YOU CAN WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT.

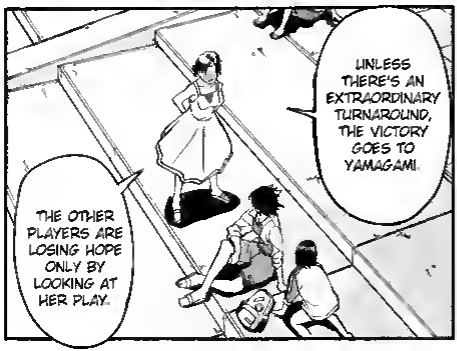

AH! WHILE I STILL REMEMBER...!

YOU SHOULD REALLY STOP JUMPING ALL THE TIME, EVEN FOR A BALL THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO RECEIVE.

WHO'S THAT GIRL? IT'S EXACTLY WHAT KOTOMI TELLS ME EVERY DAY!
HEH?!

AH! THERE YOU ARE! SO, HOW WAS IT?

19


THE OTHER PLAYERS ARE LOSING HOPE ONLY BY LOOKING AT HER PLAY.
UNLESS THERE'S AN EXTRAORDINARY TURNAROUND, THE VICTORY GOES TO YAMAGAMI.

GUESS!

I'M SURE THAT NANASE WILL BE ABLE TO BLOW OUT KURACHI!
YES, YES! IT'S REALLY HER! NANASE FROM HIGASAK!!
HMM? AREN'T YOU...

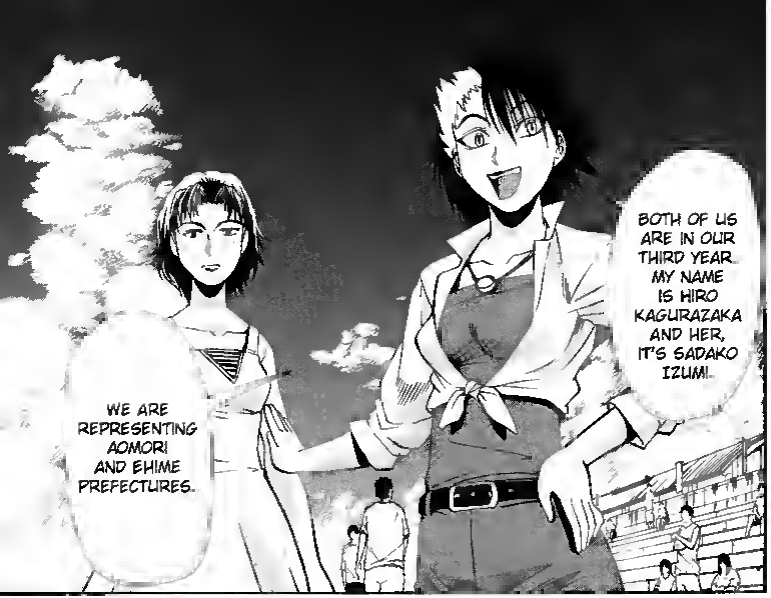
BUT NOW, SHE HAS A BIG HEAD AND THINKS OF HERSELF AS THE QUEEN OF THE BEACH ...
DURING THE LAST MADONNA CUP, KURACHI WASN'T ALL HAUGHTY ..

20

OOPS! SORRY!
WE DIDN'T INTRODUCE OUR-SELVES

DAMN, WHO ARE YOU...

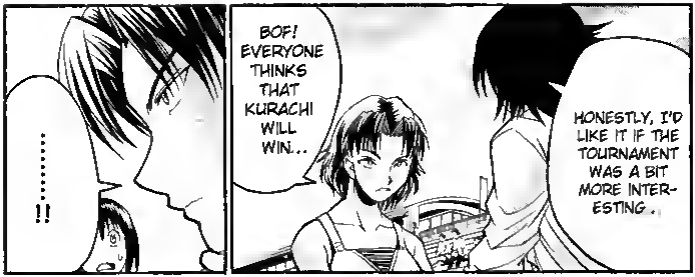
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MADONNA CUP AND KURACHI!?
WHAT ?
OF COURSE WE KNOW, SINCE WE SAW HER PLAY LAST YEAR.


BOTH OF US ARE IN OUR THIRD YEAR. MY NAME IS HIRO KAGURAZAKA AND HER, IT'S SADAKO IZUMI.
WE ARE REPRESENTING AOMORI AND EHIME PREFECTURES.

I CAME HERE TO OBSERVE THE TEAMS FROM TOKYO AND KANAGAWA
...AND WE MET BY PURE LUCK.
HOW? REALLY? FOR THE MADONNA CUP?!
I'M... I'M DREAMING!

21

...TO COME WATCH THE SELECTION ROUND...
YIKES... I WASN'T EXPECTING TO SEE HIGH LEVEL PLAYERS...


BOF! EVERYONE THINKS THAT KURACHI WILL WIN...
HONESTLY, I'D LIKE IT IF THE TOURNAMENT WAS A BIT MORE INTERESTING.
.....!!

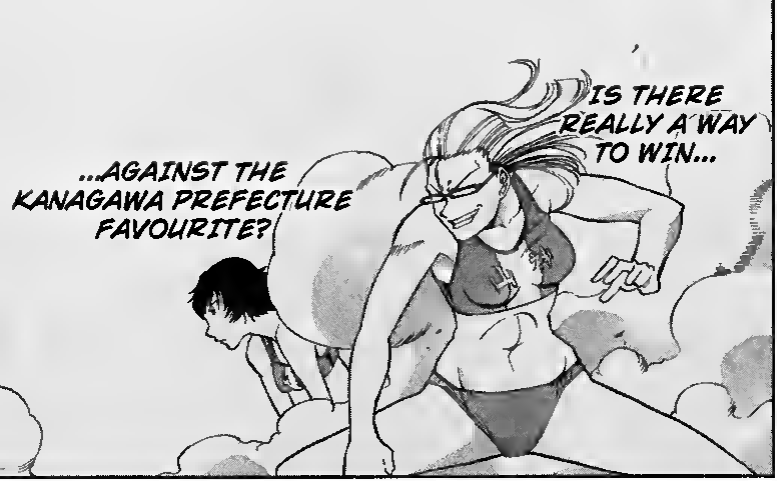
HMM? I WAS THINKING... WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW HOW TO BEAT KURACHI?
WHAT!?

I CAN TELL YOU YOUR WEAK POINT IF YOU WANT.

CHAPTER 42
KAGURAZAKA AND IZUMI
The Beach Stars

HOW TO BEAT KURACHI!?

ABSO-LUTELY. YOU'RE DYING TO KNOW, RIGHT?


IS THERE REALLY A WAY TO WIN...
...AGAINST THE KANAGAWA PREFECTURE FAVOURITE?

HEY! IRUKAAAA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE BREAK IS ENDING SOON!
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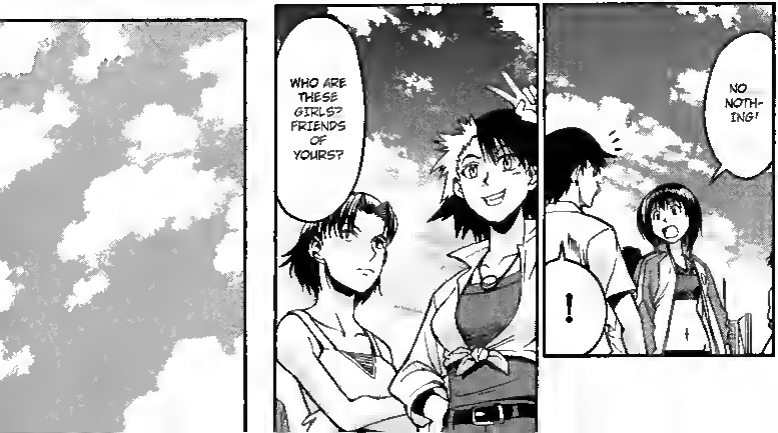

WHO ARE THESE GIRLS? FRIENDS OF YOURS?
NO NOTH-ING!
!

WHAT!? QUALIFIED PLAYERS FOR THE MADONNA CUP?!
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EHIME PREFECTURE, SADAKO IZUMI (3RD YEAR)
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AOMORI PREFECTURE, RIRI KAGURAZAKA (3RD YEAR)

4

A GOOD THING THEY CLARIFIED THAT POINT 'CAUSE WE REALLY CAN'T TELL BY THEIR LOOKS.
ひぱぱ!
あはは
I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT MEANS THAT THESE GIRLS ARE THE BEST PLAYERS OF THEIR PREFECTURE!?

OH? BE CAREFUL, YOU DROPPED YOUR NOTEBOOK I THINK
NO!!
RIGHT, GIRL?!
YEAH! WELL, TODAY, WE ARE HERE TO WATCH THE MATCHES AND GO SIGHT-SEEING.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER!!
SHE STAINED MY DRESS.
THIS PIECE OF SHIT!!
ONE DAY, I'LL SUE HER!!
I'LL NEVER GIVE HER ANY TWIX SECTION
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER, I'LL GO TO HELL!
I CURSE YOU!
ON HER GENERATIONS
BITCH
MOMMY!
TODAY SHE HIT ME ON THE BACK AGAIN
DID YOU READ MY NOTES?
HMM! ALL HER HATE IS IN THIS BOOK! SHE'S NOT PISSED AT THAT GIRL, SHE REALLY WANTS TO KILL HER!

WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A WAY TO BEAT KURACHI ...

SO, LET'S TALK BUSINESS ...

ACTUALLY I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD LISTEN TO THESE KINDS OF THINGS
BESIDES, YOU ARE TELLING ME ALL THIS EVEN THOUGH WE JUST BARELY MET

A CHEAT CODE?
WHAT!? SERIOUSLY!? THERE'S A CHEAT CODE TO BEAT THAT BOSS!?

6

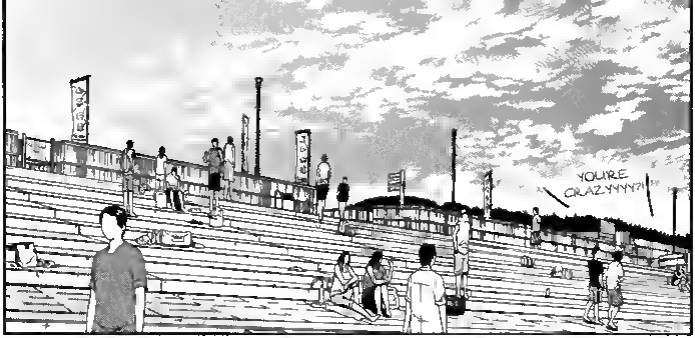
DON'T TRY TO LOOK ANY DEEPER
IT'S A REASON LIKE ANY OTHER, RIGHT?
I DON'T LIKE KU-RACHI...
WHAT!?
ANYWAY, WE DON'T CARE!

LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY... WHEN YOU AIM FOR THE TOP, YOU DON'T ONLY NEED TO BE STRONG...
...A FIRST-CLASS PLAYER MUST ALSO KNOW HOW TO SEIZE THESE SORTS OF OP-PORTUNITIES!
SHE'S RIGHT! IT'S AN UNEX-PECTED CHANCE!
EH... IF YOU SAY SO
SHE'S THE KIND OF GIRL YOU NEED TO CRUSH ON THE SPOT

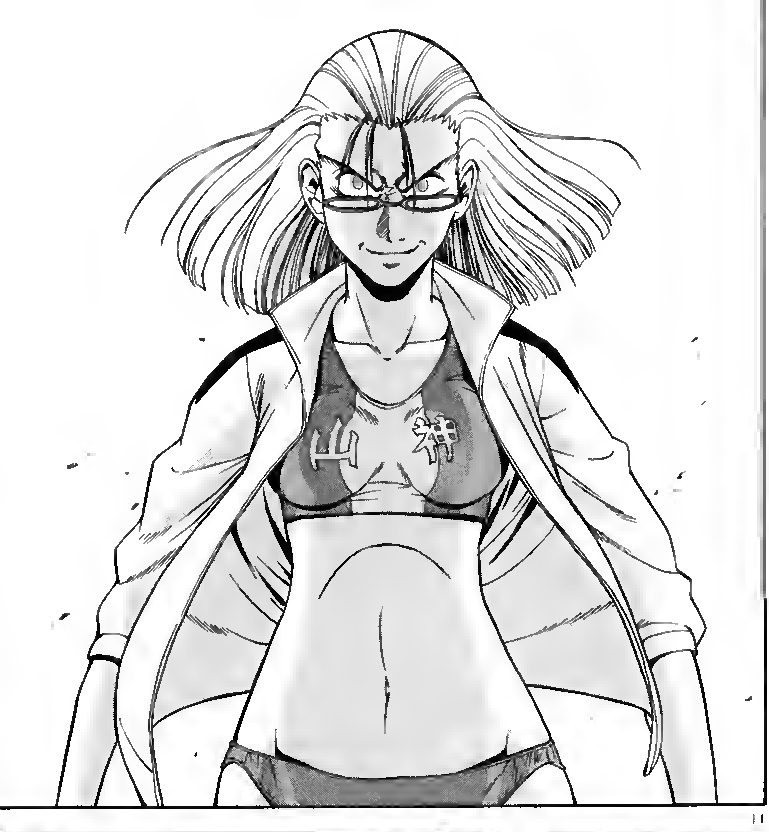
I DISCOVERED A WEAK POINT BY PURE LUCK LAST YEAR
WHILE PLAYING AGAINST HER
YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED BUT, IN FACT, SHE HAS A SPASM.
STOOOP !!

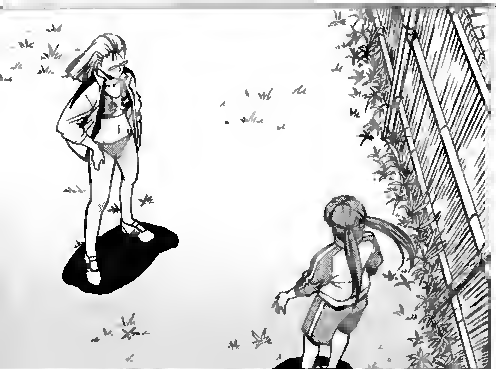
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT ANYMORE!!

ピク!!
WE'RE WONDERING...
HEY, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU!?


YOU'RE CRAZYYYY?!

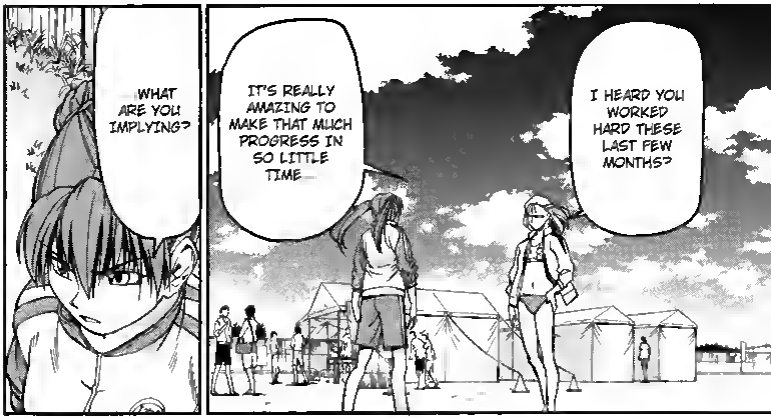
FINALLY, THE SEMI-FINALS ...



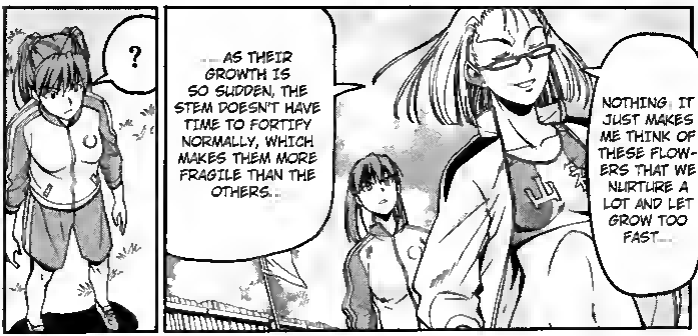


KURA-
CHI!

FRANKLY, YOU'VE AMAZED ME. I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO REACH THE SEMI-FINALS.
YOU CAN SAY THANKS TO YOUR PARTNER, I GUESS...


I HEARD YOU WORKED HARD THESE LAST FEW MONTHS?
IT'S REALLY AMAZING TO MAKE THAT MUCH PROGRESS IN SO LITTLE TIME...
...WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?

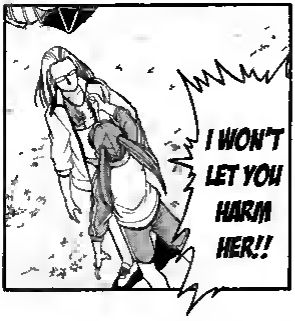
12

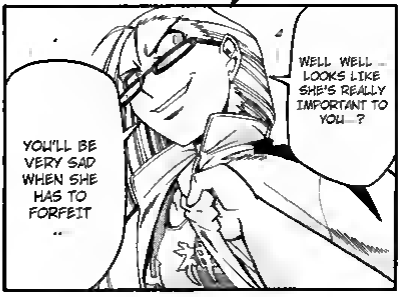

NOTHING. IT JUST MAKES ME THINK OF THESE FLOWERS THAT WE NURTURE A LOT AND LET GROW TOO FAST...
...AS THEIR GROWTH IS SO SUDDEN, THE STEM DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO FORTIFY NORMALLY, WHICH MAKES THEM MORE FRAGILE THAN THE OTHERS...
?

JUST LIKE YOUR PARTNER, SOMEHOW ...
IT WOULD BE A PITY IF SHE DIDN'T FINISH THE TOURNA-MENT...

WHAT SHITTY TRICK ARE YOU PREPARING?!

14

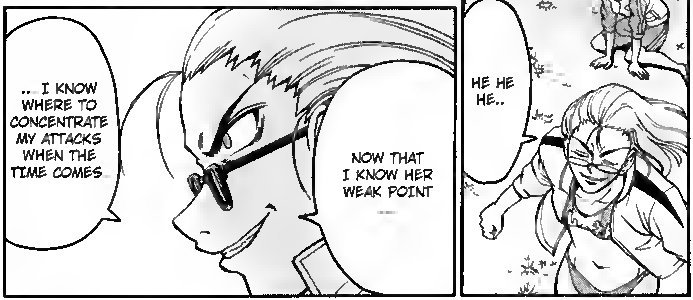

I WON'T LET YOU HARM HER!!


WELL WELL LOOKS LIKE SHE'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU...?
YOU'LL BE VERY SAD WHEN SHE HAS TO FORFEIT ..

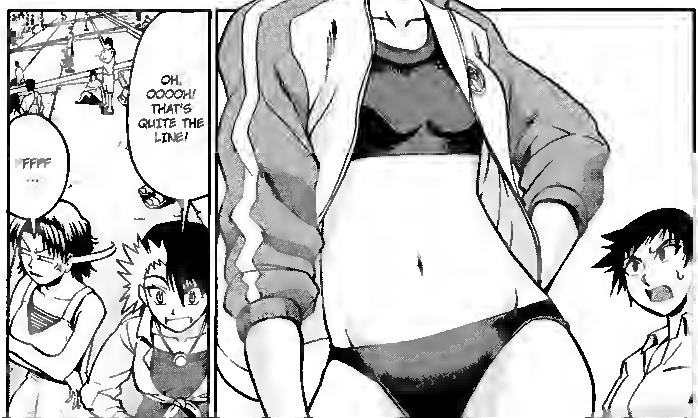
I THINK THERE'S A LITTLE MIS-UNDERSTAND-ING
I'M NOT HER PROBLEM
ARGH!!

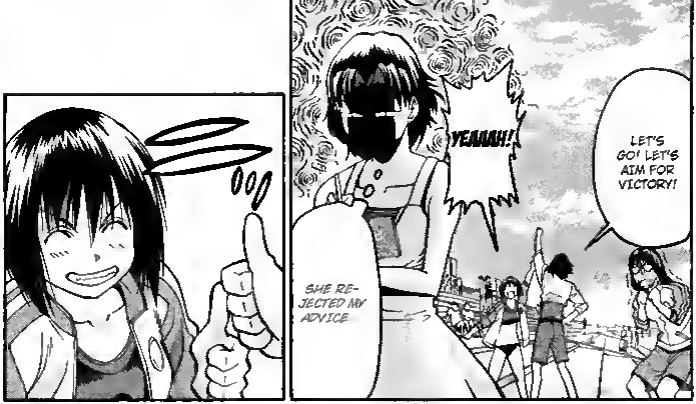
... BUT YOU! YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'LL DESTROY THE FUTURE OF IRUKA NANASE ...

... SINCE SHE MADE THE MISTAKE OF BECOMING YOUR PART-NER!


... I KNOW WHERE TO CONCENTRATE MY ATTACKS WHEN THE TIME COMES
NOW THAT I KNOW HER WEAK POINT
HE HE HE..

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT IF IT'S SUPPOSED TO HELP ME WIN, I'LL FIND IT ALONE!
EVEN IF SHE HAS A WEAK POINT, IT WOULD BE CHEAP TO FIND IT THIS WAY


OH, OOOOH! THAT'S QUITE THE LINE!
FFFF ...

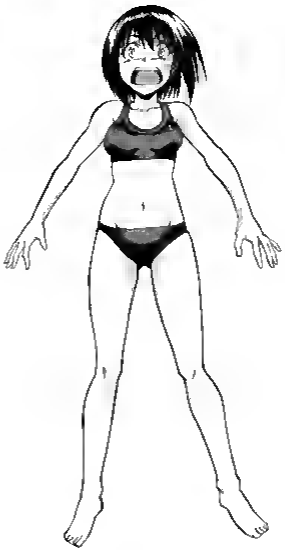

LET'S GO! LET'S AIM FOR VICTORY!
YEAAAH!
SHE REJECTED MY ADVICE.

WE JUST MET, BUT I ALREADY LIKE THIS GIRL
I THINK WE COULD BE GREAT FRIENDS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!
THE SEMI-FINALS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN!!

ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars

ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars



CHAPTER 43
TWO OF A KIND
The Beach Stars

THE MADONNA CUP'S PLAYOFFS CONTINUE HERE IN KANAGAWA, WHERE THE SEMI-FINALS HAVE JUST BEGUN!!
THE TOP FOUR TEAMS OF THE PREFECTURE ARE COMPETING AT THIS VERY MOMENT TO TRY AND WIN THEIR TICKET TO THE FINAL.

ON COURT A, HIGASAKI HIGH SCHOOL IS PLAYING AGAINST HATANAKA...
...TO WHOM THEY GIVE NO REST! INDEED, HIGASAKI'S ATTACKS FALL ON THEIR OPPONENTS LIKE A TSUNAMI!!!
JUST IN TIME!!

GOOD! GOOD!! HATANAKA'S PLAYERS ARE KEEPING THEIR HEAD COOL.
THEY SEND THE BALL BACK IN EXTREMIS BEFORE RETURNING TO POSITION

4

DAMN.. IT CAN'T BE!?
YIKES! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! NANASE RETURNED THE BALL DIRECTLY TO HER OPPONENTS WITHOUT EVEN RECEIVING IT!
Higasaki (B) 19—11 Hatanaka

HEY! CHECK OUT THE OTHER COURT! THERE ARE AMAZING PLAYS OVER THERE TOO!!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S HIGASAKI'S FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING!?
DAMN!

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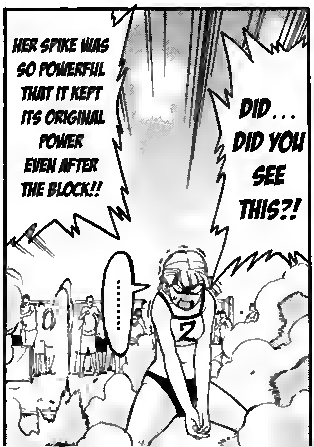
YAMAGAMI'S PLAYER IS INCREDIBLE!!
MA-CHIKO! IT'S YOURS!

MOVE! YOU'RE BLOCKING THE WAY!!


HER SPIKE WAS SO POWERFUL THAT IT KEPT ITS ORIGINAL POWER EVEN AFTER THE BLOCK!!
DID... DID YOU SEE THIS?!

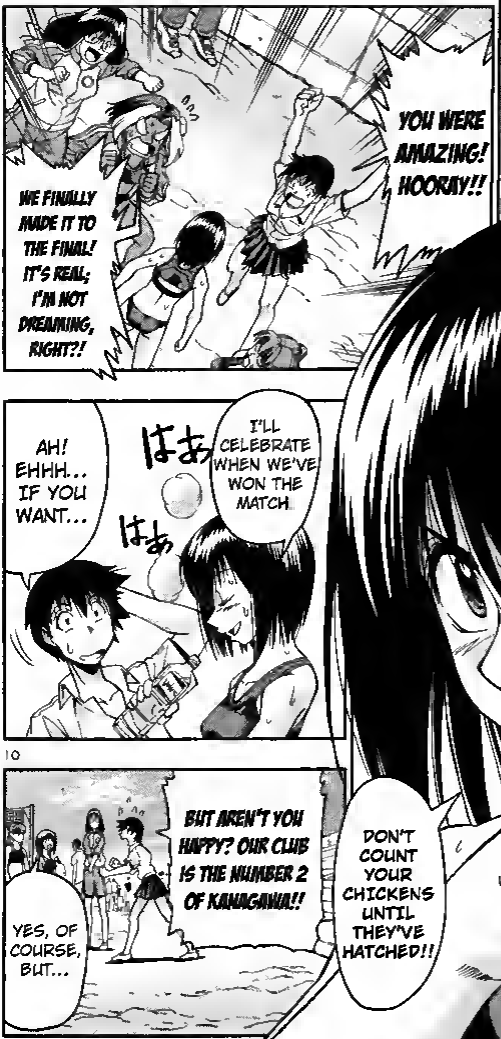
ホ!!
ゴ!!!

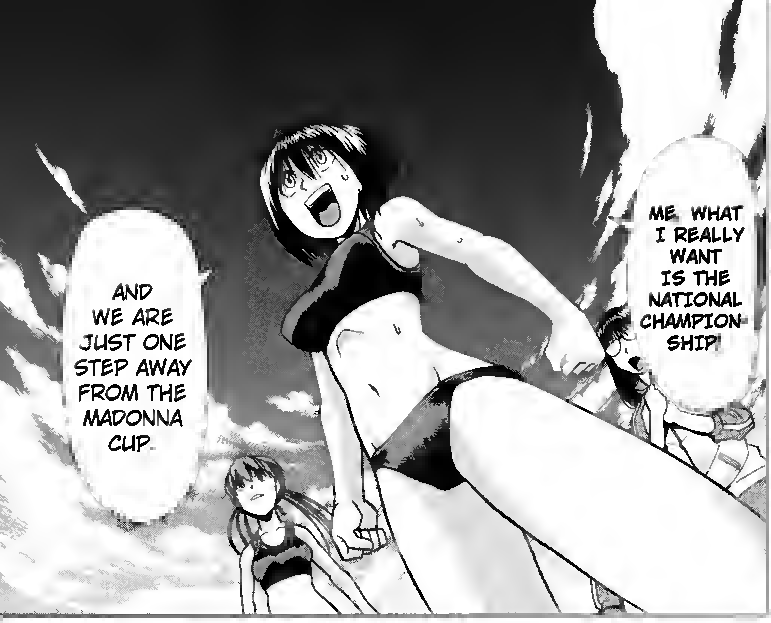
ァァァ.
... WE HAVE HIGH LEVEL PLAYOFFS!
EH... WE CAN SAY THAT THIS YEAR

ワアアア
GAME OVER! THE FINAL WILL THEREFORE OPPOSE HIGASAKI HIGH SCHOOL TO YAMAGAMI HIGH SCHOOL!!
Higasaki (B) 21—16 Hatanaka

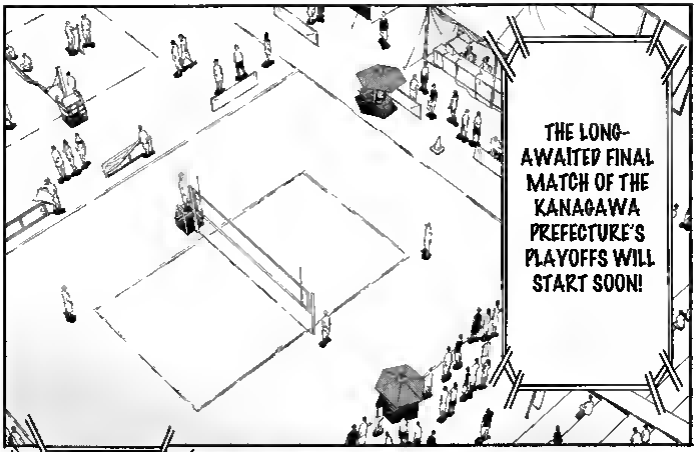
9

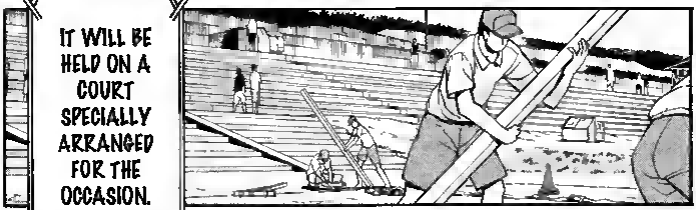
AS IF THEIR FATE WAS PREORDAINED, BOTH TEAMS QUALIFIED ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY!!
オオ
NANAHASHI (B) 4—21 YAMAGAMI (A)


YOU WERE AMAZING! HOORAY!!
WE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE FINAL! IT'S REAL; I'M NOT DREAMING, RIGHT?!
I'LL CELEBRATE WHEN WE'VE WON THE MATCH
はあ
はあ
AH! EHHH... IF YOU WANT...
DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS UNTIL THEY'VE HATCHED!!
BUT AREN'T YOU HAPPY? OUR CLUB IS THE NUMBER 2 OF KANAGAWA!!
YES, OF COURSE, BUT...

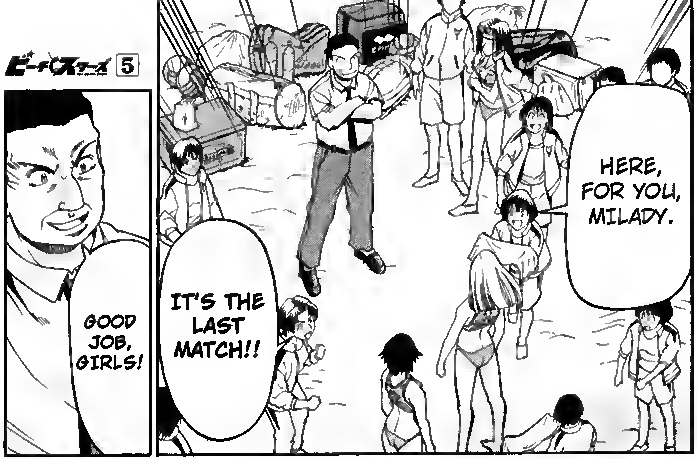

ME. WHAT I REALLY WANT IS THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP!
AND WE ARE JUST ONE STEP AWAY FROM THE MADONNA CUP.

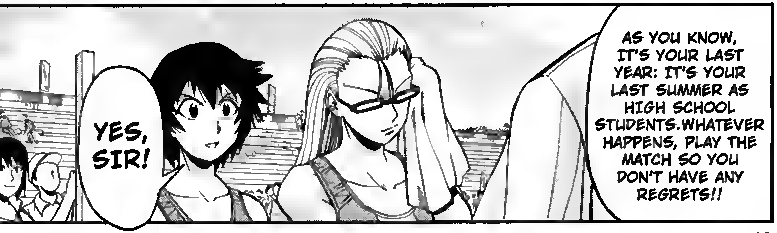
SO I MUST NOT SLOW DOWN!!
I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT YOUR GOAL WAS TO PLAY AGAINST HAYAKAWA DURING THE MADONNA CUP.
NOTHING CAN STOP US!
YEAH!

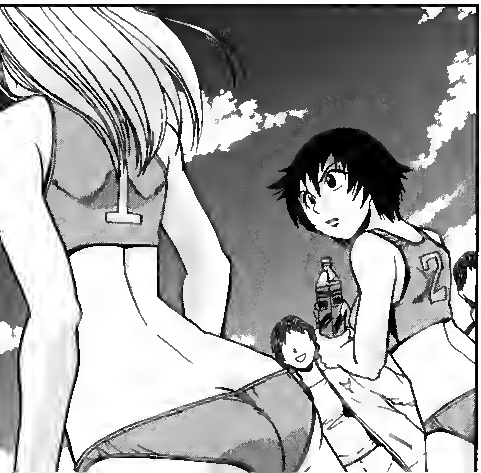

THE LONG-AWAITED FINAL MATCH OF THE KANAGAWA PREFECTURE'S PLAYOFFS WILL START SOON!


IT WILL BE HELD ON A COURT SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR THE OCCASION.

THOSE INTERESTED IN WATCHING ARE INVITED TO COME CLOSER TO THE COURT.

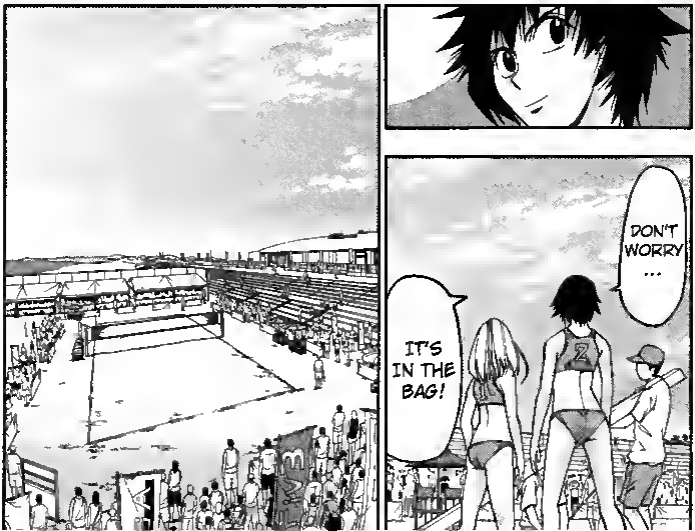

GOOD JOB, GIRLS!
IT'S THE LAST MATCH!!
HERE, FOR YOU, MILADY.


YES, SIR!
AS YOU KNOW, IT'S YOUR LAST YEAR: IT'S YOUR LAST SUMMER AS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.WHATEVER HAPPENS, PLAY THE MATCH SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS!!



I HOPE SO.
I AM WHOLE-HEARTEDLY WITH YOU, KURACHI!

IT'S MY LAST SUMMER AS A STUDENT...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LOSE.


DON'T WORRY ...
IT'S IN THE BAG!

OH GOD! WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE!?
WAIT A MINUTE! THEY'RE ALL HERE TO CHEER FOR YAMAGAMI!?
AND?! WHEN IT COMES TO FANS, IT'S NOT THE QUANTITY THAT MATTERS, IT'S THE WILL!!

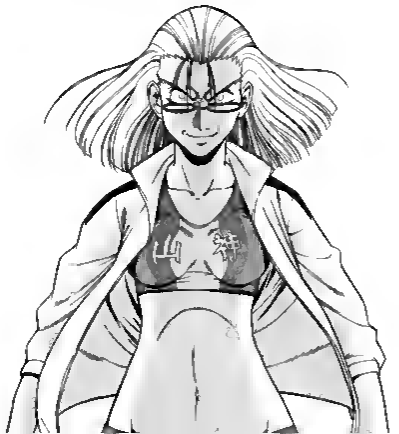
I WAS SURE! MY INSTINCTS NEVER BETRAY ME!
ALL THESE GIRLS REALLY SECRETLY REGISTERED TO THIS TOURNAMENT!
WHAT A PHENOMENAL SCOOP!!
Yuina, Nagisa, Kanae
The triplets of Higasaki High School's Newspaper

NO WAY!
AND WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE LOTS OF PICTURES OF THESE FINALS TO MAKE THE BEST SCOOP EVER!!
AAAH! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN CALLED BOSS...
YOU WERE RIGHT, BOSS! IT'S THE BIGGEST TOPIC OUR NEWSPAPER EVER WROTE ON!!

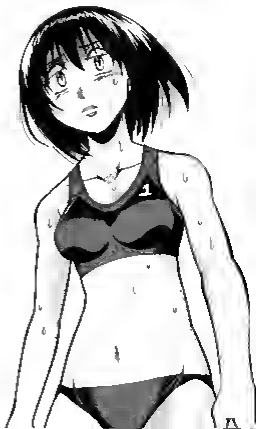
17

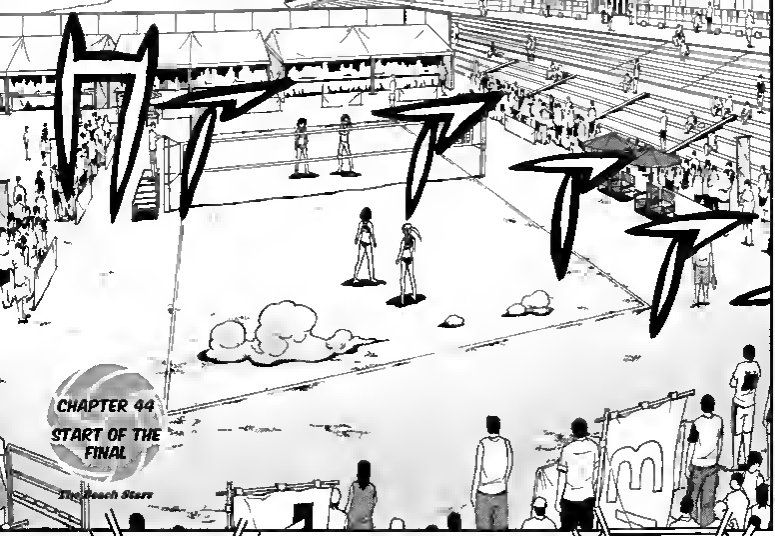
That's it! The finals, opposing Team B from Higasaki to Team A from Yamagami, will start soon!
LET'S GO!
Which players will shine by their talent and become the next beach stars!?

ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars

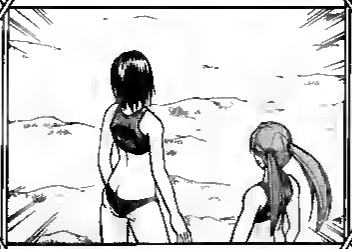


ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars





...where seventy-two players competed in order to win a ticket for the Madonna Cup.

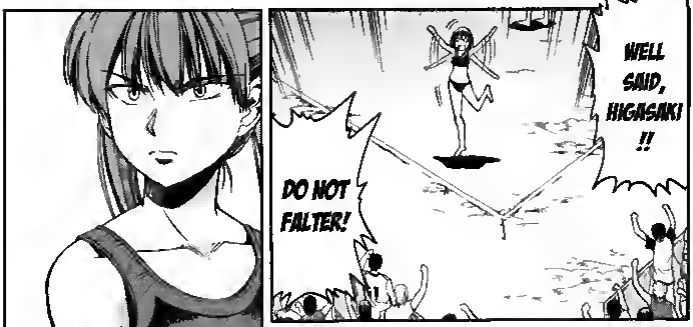


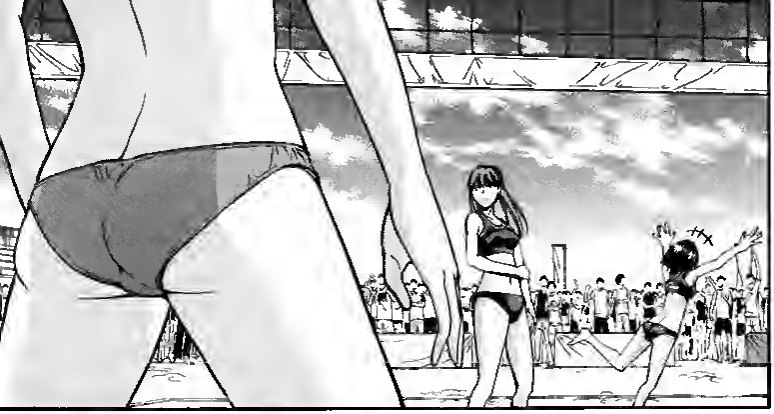
This ultimate battle ends a day of intensive matches....

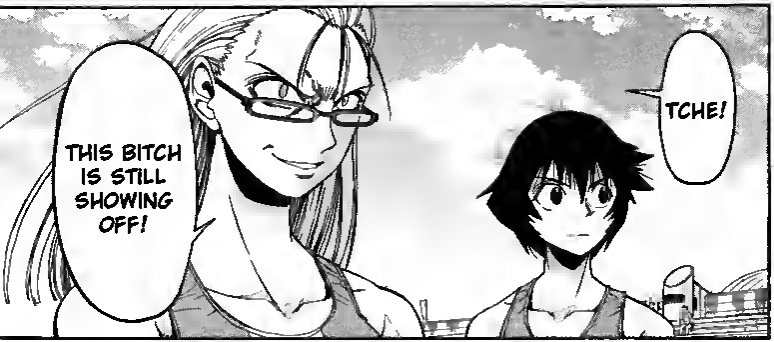
Only one team can win this ticket! Who between Higasaki and Yamagami will make it?

We shall know the answer very very soon, ladies and gentlemen.
CHAPTER 44
START OF THE FINAL
The Beach Stars

COME AND GET SOME, IF YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS!!
LET'S GO, YAGAMI!!

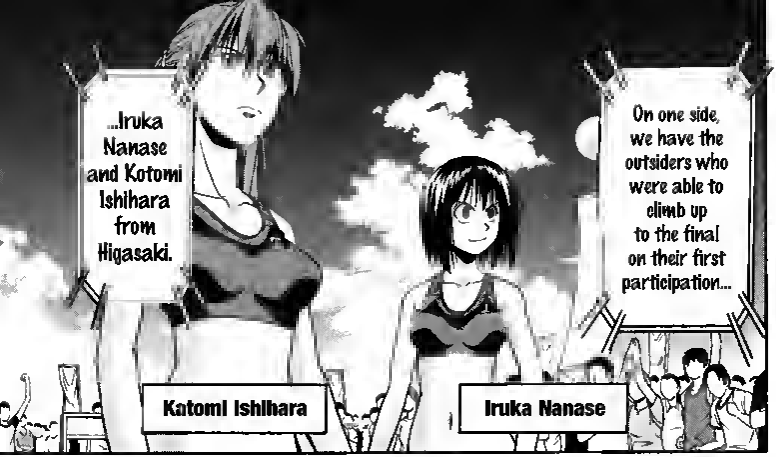

WELL SAID, HIGASAKI !!
DO NOT FALTER!

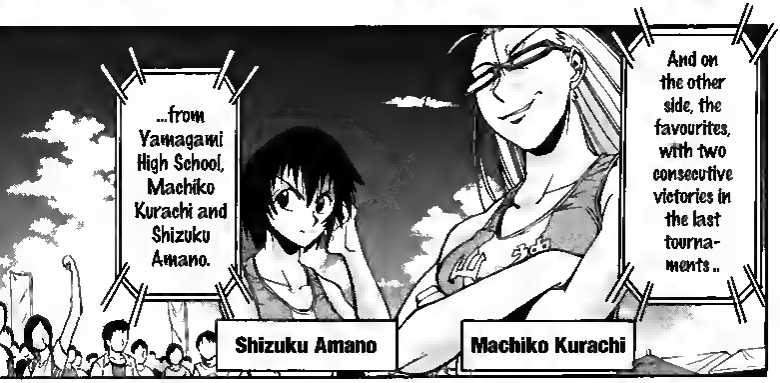


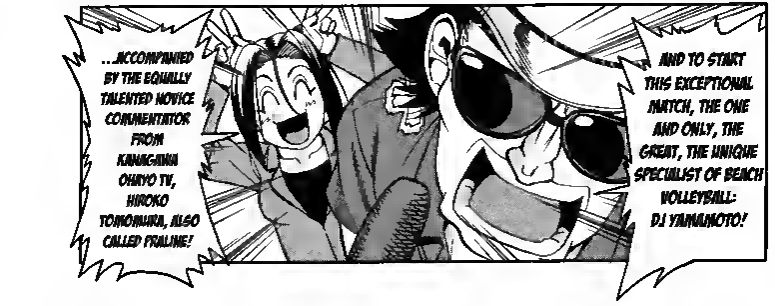


*TRANSLATORS NOTE. TO GIVE ADVICE TO SOMEONE ABOUT A SUBJECT THAT THEY ALREADY KNOW MORE ABOUT THAN YOU

Indeed, unlike the other matches, this one will be played in 3 sets.
Note that the rules will change a bit for the final.
The first team to win two sets will be the winner.
The first two sets will be of 21 points and the last one of 15 points.
DAMN! I'M STRESSED OUT JUST BY WATCHING ...


...Iruka Nanase and Kotomi Ishihara from Higasaki.
On one side, we have the outsiders who were able to climb up to the final on their first participation...
Katomi Ishihara
Iruka Nanase


...from Yamagawi High School, Machiko Kurachi and Shizuku Amano.
And on the other side, the favourites, with two consecutive victories in the last tourna-ments..
Shizuku Amano
Machiko Kurachi


...ACCOMPANIED BY THE EQUALLY TALENTED NOVICE COMMENTATOR FROM KANAGAWA OHAYO TV, HIROKO TOMOHARA, ALSO CALLED FTALINE!
AND TO START THIS EXCEPTIONAL MATCH, THE ONE AND ONLY, THE GREAT, THE UNIQUE SPECIALIST OF BEACH VOLLEYBALL: DJ YAMAMOTO!

The match starts with Higasaki to serve!
Higasaki (B) 0 — 0 Yamagami (A)

IRUKA, WE GO ALL OUT!

Tress
...

...STARTING!!

Accurate and stable serve from Nanase...

...which Yamagami receive without any trouble!!
PFFF!
MACHIKO, LET'S PLAY IT SAFE...
WE SHOULDN'T WASTE OUR TIME HERE! I NEVER PLAY IT SAFE!!
WILL THEY TRY THE SPIKE!?
FIRST OFFENSIVE OCCASION FOR YAMAGAMI!!

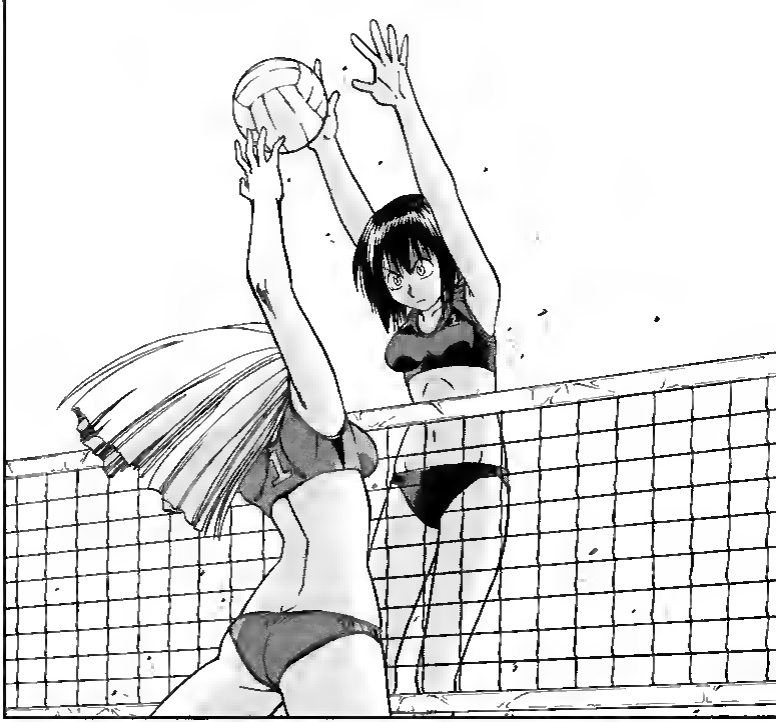
I'M EAGERLY WAITING FOR IT!!
MUKA! LET THE BALL COME AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE PLAYING IT!
IT'S CHILD'S PLAY!
WHAAAT!? THEY AREN'T JUMPING TO COUNTER THE SPIKE?
...TO STOP MY SPIKE WITHOUT COUN-TERING FIRST!?
MOUA-HAHA! HOW CAN YOU HOPE...

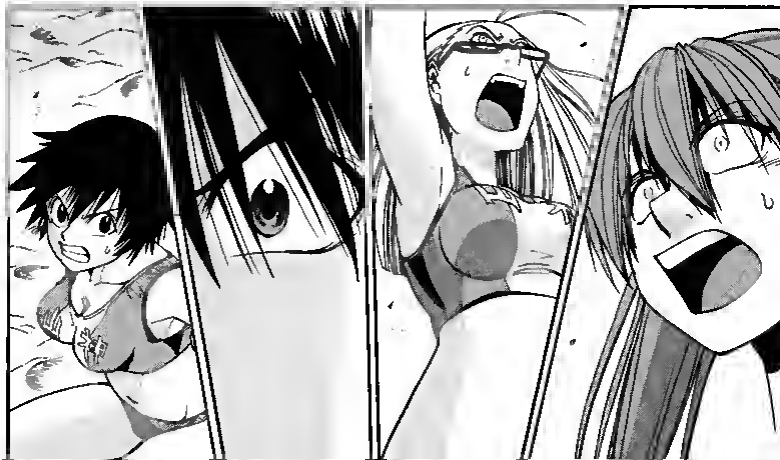
MIGHTY

Yeeee!!
Nanase reacted with incredible speed!!
She... She sent it back!!
IT'S TOO LATE TO COUNTER, LET'S FALL BACK..
DAMN! DID THEY ANTICIPATE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BALL!?!
OOOOOH!!
GOOD JOB, IRUKA!!
THAT WAS YOURS!!

...WHAT'S MORE, SHE SENT BACK THE BALL WITH THE SAME VIOLENCE!!
IN... INCREDIBLE!! NOT ONLY DID SHE RECEIVE KURAICHI'S SUPER SPIKE...

SHUT UP! YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS CONFUSED!
DON'T CONFUSE SPEED WITH ACCURACY...
MOUAHAHA! THEY PISSED ME OFF!!
WATCH CLOSELY, YOU INSECTS! THAT'S A REAL SPIKE!



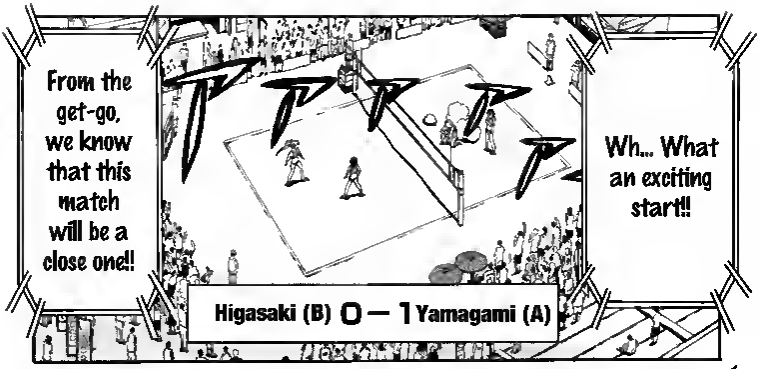


GNNN...
BY JUMPING HIGHER THAN ME!?
SHE BLOCKED THE BALL!?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

KYAAAH!!
The ball fell outside the field, which gives the first point to Yamagami!!
However, with Higasaki managing an excellent counter, from what we've seen so far, we can expect an intense match!!
HAAAN
HAAAN
Higasaki (B) 0 — 1 Yamagami (A)

CHAPTER 45
SHOWDOWN

Haa
Haa


From the get-go, we know that this match will be a close one!!
Wh... What an exciting start!!
Higasaki (B) 0 — 1 Yamagami (A)

DON'T WORRY! THEY WON'T LOSE THIS EASILY!

DAMN! IT WAS SO CLOSE!!

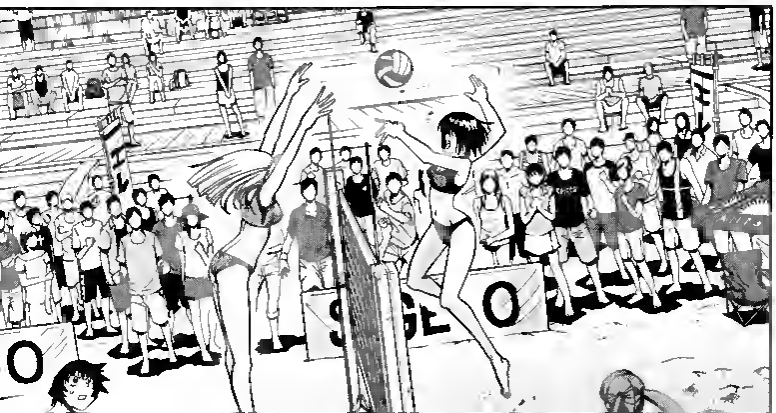
YEAH! THEY'LL GET IT GOOD NEXT TIME!
TOO BAD!

BASTARD!!
Yamagami to serve!
I WON'T LET YOU INSULT ME BY PUTTING ME ON THE SAME LEVEL...
...AS THESE AMA-TEURS!
LAST TIME, YOU GOT LUCKY, BUT IT WON'T BE THE SAME THIS TIME!!
バボッ

IRUKA!
SHE GOT IT!!
Good reception from Higasaki, followed up with an attack!!
GOOD!

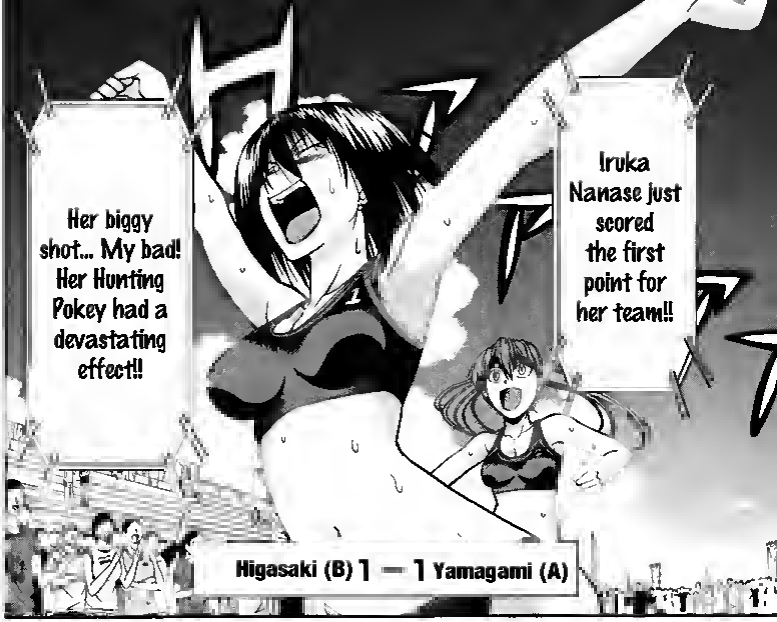
GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT!!
GO, IRUKA!!
オオオオオオ
OH! PLEASE, DON'T LET IT PASS!
COUNTER HER, KURACHI!!
IF YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE, YOU'RE WRONG!
HERE WE GOOOO!!

I KNOW THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO JUMP EVERY TIME...
...SINCE YOUR PARTNER IS UNABLE TO JUMP!
THIS TIME, IT WILL PASS!!
WAIT, MACHI-IKO!!
GO AHEAD! BUT WITH ME BLOCKING, YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING!!



8

DAMN... SHE DID IT!!
She used her Hunting Pokey!!
THE BALL IS GOOD!!
It's in...


Her biggy shot... My bad! Her Hunting Pokey had a devastating effect!!
Iruka Nanase just scored the first point for her team!!
Higasaki (B) 1 — 1 Yamagami (A)

オオ
EXCEL-LEEEEE-EENT...
TO HAND OVER THE VICTORY TO YAMAGAMI, THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS!!
HIGA-SAKI'S TEAM DOESN'T SEEM WILLING...

.....
SHE GOT US PRETTY GOOD...
ENOUGH FOOLING AROUND! FROM NOW ON, LET'S PLAY SERIOUSLY!
BOTH OF YOU ARE DEAD!

The next serve goes to Ishihara from Higasaki.
パッ

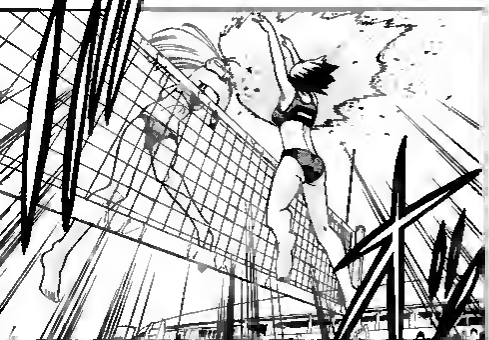
HER TECHNIQUE IS PRETTY POWERFUL...
WOW! IMPRESSIVE!
LET'S GO...

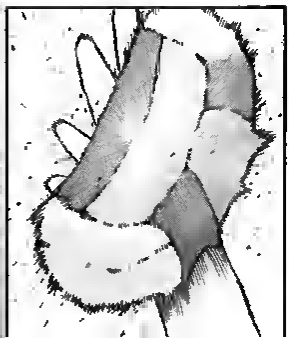
DON'T WORRY! I CAN STILL GET THERE IN TIME TO BLOCK THE BALL!
BE CAREFUL! THEY'RE GETTING IN ATTACKING POSITIONS FASTER THAN USUAL!

Who'll win?!
For the second consecutive time, attack and defence clash in front of the net!!

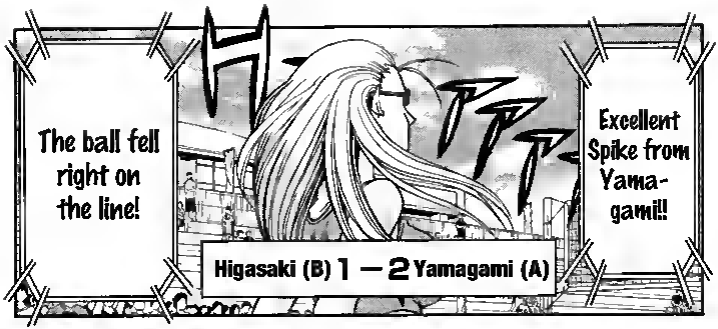
YOU SHALL NOT PASS!!
GO, IRUKA!!
GOOD! SHE'S RIGHT ON TIME!

molten
NICHIBAKI





BE CARE-FUL!!
!!

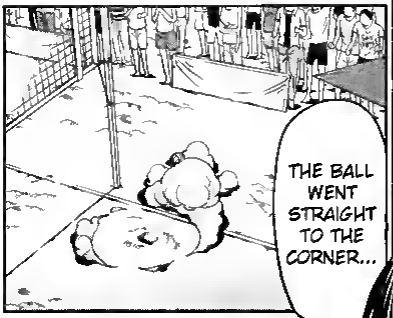

The ball fell right on the line!
Excellent Spike from Yamagami!!
Higasaki (B) 1 — 2 Yamagami (A)

DAMN... THAT'S...
...HER SPIKE WAS AMAZING...
FINALLY, SHE DID IT...
THAT'S THE CROSS SPIKE!?

ビーチビスターズ
The Beach Stars

CHAPTER 46
THE BREAKING CROSS SPIKE
The Beach Stars

THAT'S ...
...THE CROSS SPIKE?!


THE BALL WENT STRAIGHT TO THE CORNER...

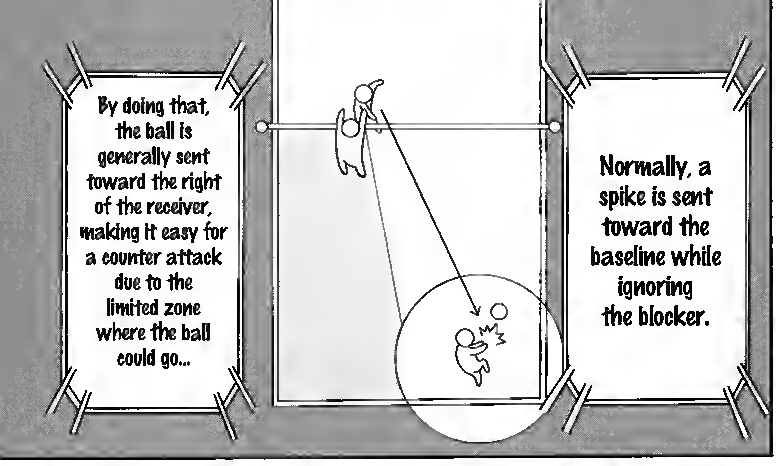
EH... YEAH...
DAMN! DID YOU SEE THAT?

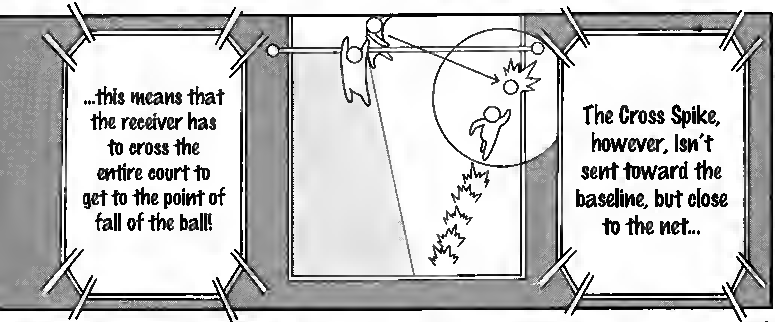
3

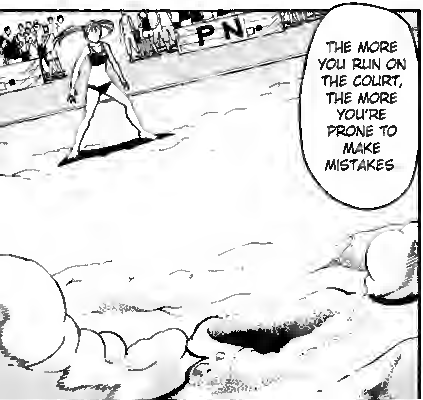
...with this amazing Cross Spike!!
Second point for Yamagami's players, who are showing us why they are the champions...
Higasaki (B) 1 — 2 Yamagami (A)

WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
I'LL EXPLAIN TO ALL OF YOU WHAT IT IS!

OKAY! OKAY!
A CROSS SPIKE?


By doing that, the ball is generally sent toward the right of the receiver, making it easy for a counter attack due to the limited zone where the ball could go...
Normally, a spike is sent toward the baseline while ignoring the blocker.


...this means that the receiver has to cross the entire court to get to the point of fall of the ball!
The Cross Spike, however, isn't sent toward the baseline, but close to the net...

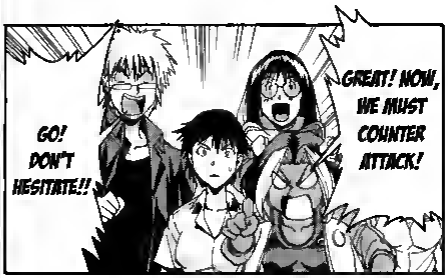

THE MORE YOU RUN ON THE COURT, THE MORE YOU'RE PRONE TO MAKE MISTAKES

IT'S A TECHNIQUE THAT CAUSES NIGHTMARES TO THE RECEIVER
EVEN THOUGH IT'S REALLY EASY TO HIT SIDEWAYS...

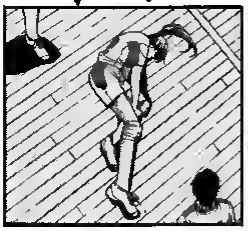
It's now Yamagami's serve...
And Amano is doing it.

SLURP!
The ball is going straight to Ishihara...
...who receives it easily!

.....


GO! DON'T HESITATE!!
GREAT! NOW, WE MUST COUNTER ATTACK!

Volleyball
Mikasa



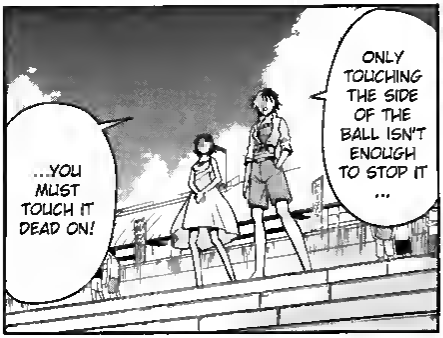
They mustn't miss it!!
It's a good chance for Higasaki!

WHAT THE HELL!?
.....
Oh... What a shame!
Ishihara just sent the ball back without taking the chance to attack!!

WEIRD.. IS IT HER WEAK POINT?
WHAT THE HELL DID SHE DO?! SHE SHOULD HAVE SPIKED IT! RIGHT?
MOHHHHHH!
PSSS
MA-CHIKO !!
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT A REAL SPIKE IS!!
A new opportunity for Yamagami to score!!

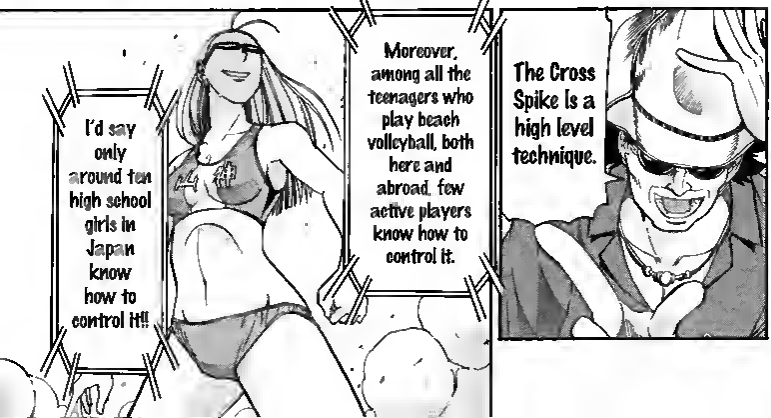
OH
NOOO!

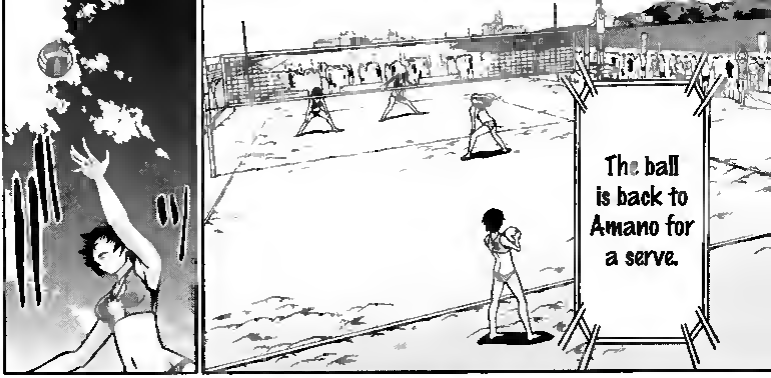
IT WENT THROUGH!!
And here we go! Yamagami continues to add to their lead...
オオオオ
...thanks to Kurachi's Cross Spike!!
Higasaki (9) 1 — 3 Yamagami (A)


ONLY TOUCHING THE SIDE OF THE BALL ISN'T ENOUGH TO STOP IT ...
...YOU MUST TOUCH IT DEAD ON!

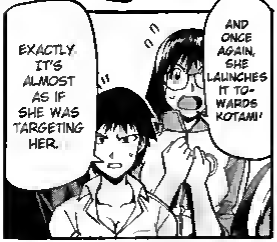
DAMN!
EVEN THOUGH SHE REACHED THE BALL !!

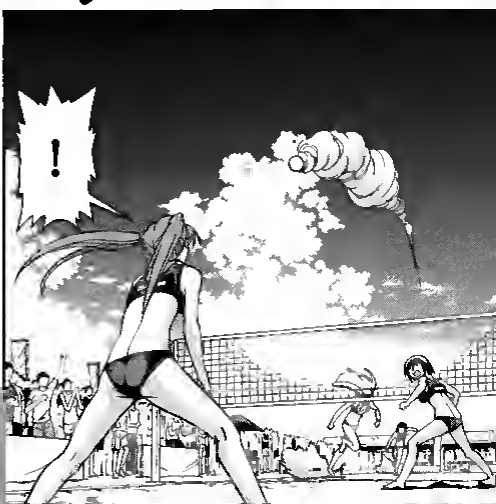
BUT IT'S NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM THAT THE DEFENDERS HAVE...
THEY MUST FIND OUT INSTANTLY IF IT'S A CROSS SPIKE OR A NORMAL SPIKE...


The Cross Spike is a high level technique.
Moreover, among all the teenagers who play beach volleyball, both here and abroad, few active players know how to control it.
I'd say only around ten high school girls in Japan know how to control it!!


The ball is back to Amano for a serve.

DOO


AND ONCE AGAIN, SHE LAUNCHES IT TOWARDS KOTAMI!
EXACTLY. IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE WAS TARGETING HER.

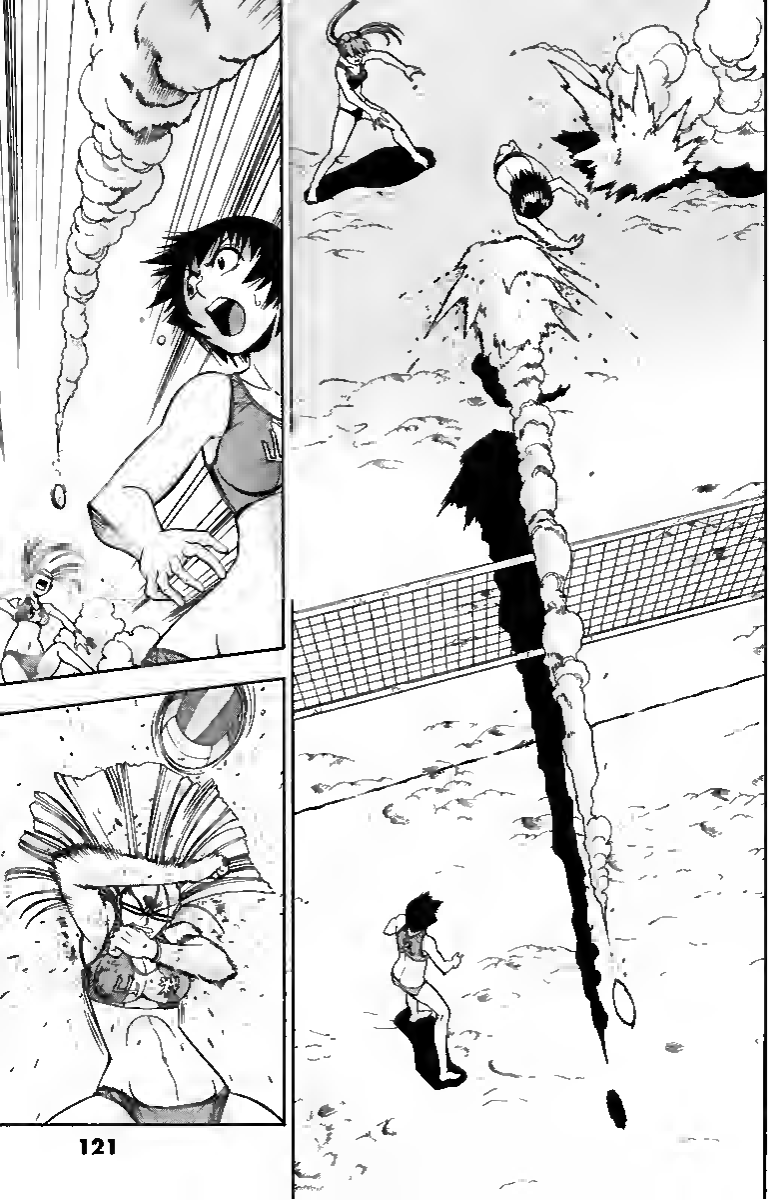

!

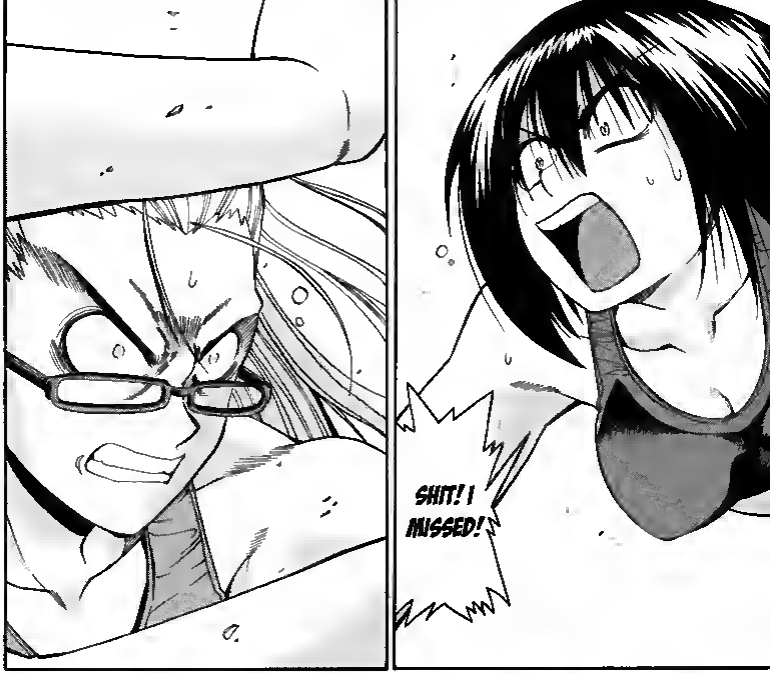
OF COURSE!

AND IF THEY WANT TO SPIKE, KOTOMI WILL HAVE TO DO IT!
IF KOTOMI RECEIVES THE SERVE, THE SECOND TOUCH WILL BE MADE BY IRUKA!
WHAT!?
SO IN THE END, IT'S A TECHNIQUE TO SEAL IRUKA'S SPIKE!!

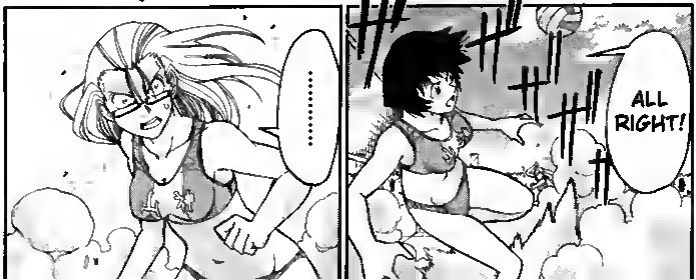
HAHAHAHA! SINCE THIS BITCH CAN'T JUMP NEXT TO THE NET, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SPIKE!
SINCE WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN ATTACK...
...WE'RE SURE TO WI...

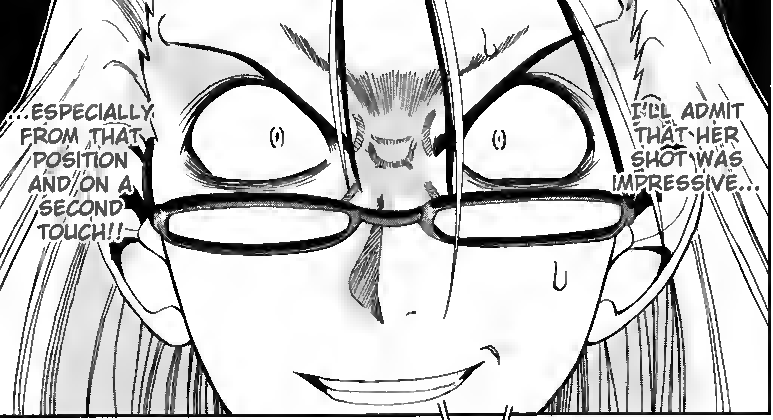
PILOT



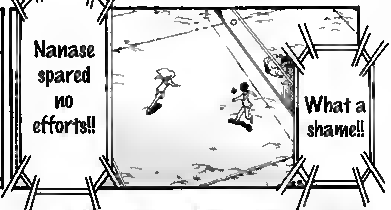

SHIT! I MISSED!

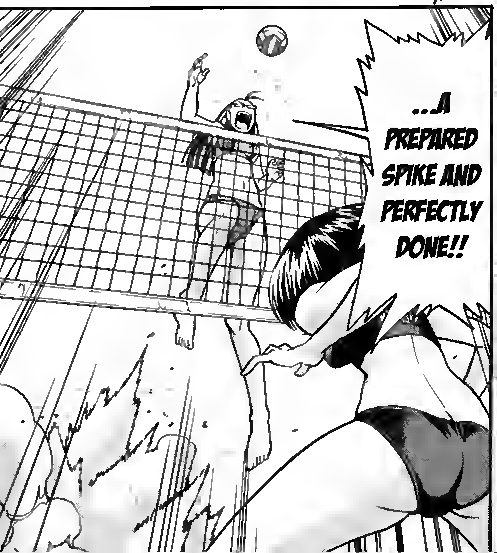
HOW COULD SHE SPIKE SUCH A BALL!?
WOOOOW! WHAT WAS THAT!?

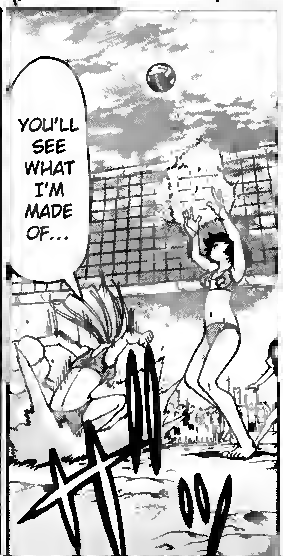

.....
ALL RIGHT!


...ESPECIALLY FROM THAT POSITION AND ON A SECOND TOUCH!!
I'LL ADMIT THAT HER SHOT WAS IMPRESSIVE...

SHE GOT LUCKY...
TCHE!! NEVER-MIND...


Nanase spared no efforts!!
What a shame!!


...A PREPARED SPIKE AND PERFECTLY DONE!!


YOU'LL SEE WHAT I'M MADE OF...

CROSS SPIKE!!!

SOME-ONE WAKE ME UP ...
Well! The Cross Spike doesn't have any dead angle!!
Threee!!
Higasaki (B)1 — 4 Yamagami (A)

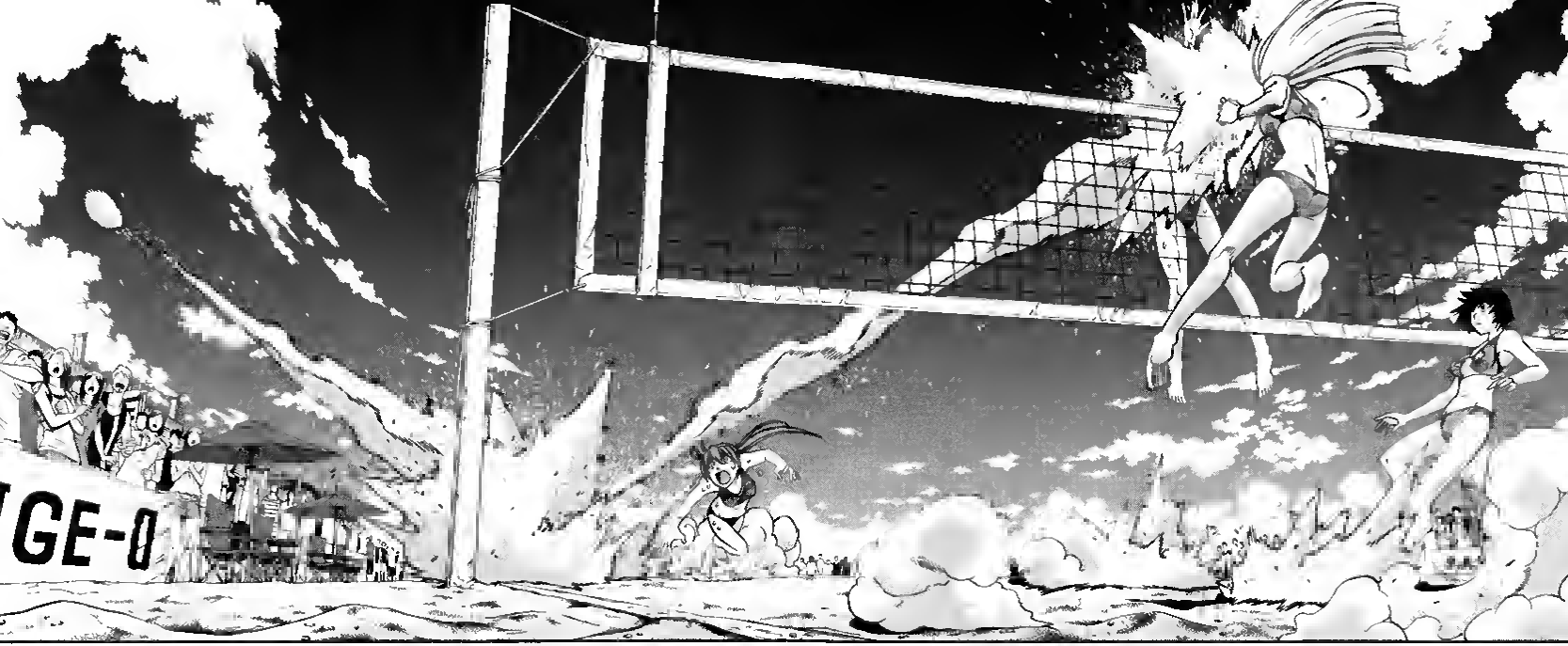
ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars

ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars

CHAPTER 47
NO SOLUTION
The Beach Stars

DAMN IT! I CAN'T LET HER KEEP ON SCORING!!

HAHAHA! NOBODY CAN STOP ME!!
NOT THIS TIME!!
A CROSS SPIKE YET AGAIN!!!
NO! I MISSED IT AGAIN!!

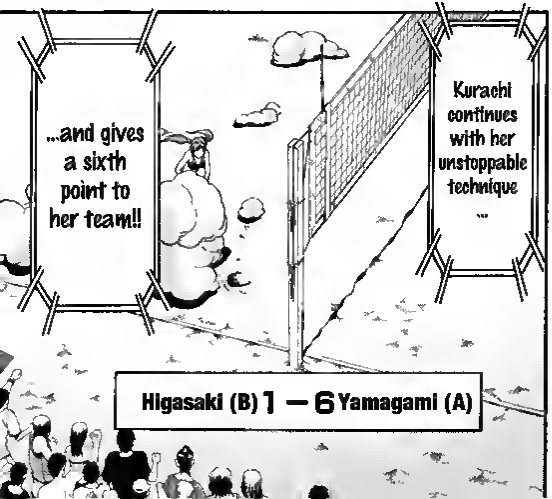


4

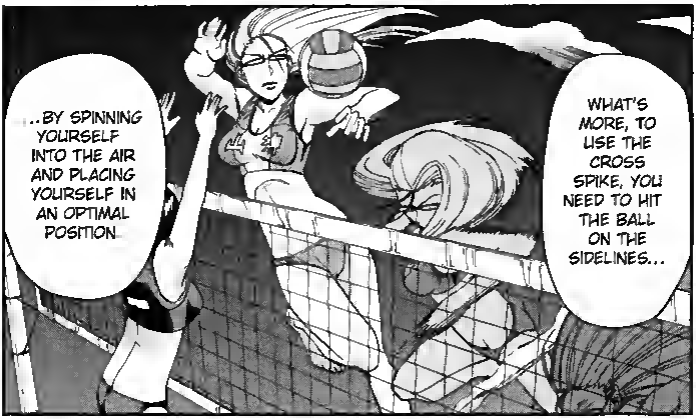
EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW SHE'LL USE THE CROSS SPIKE, THERE'S NO WAY OF BLOCKING IT!!
DAMN IT, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

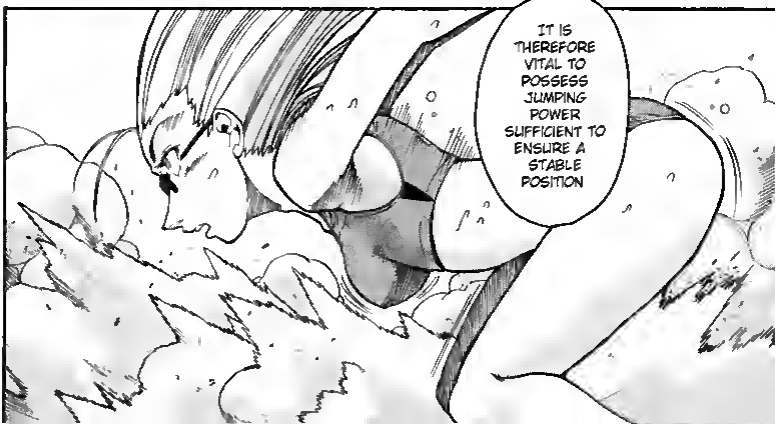
5

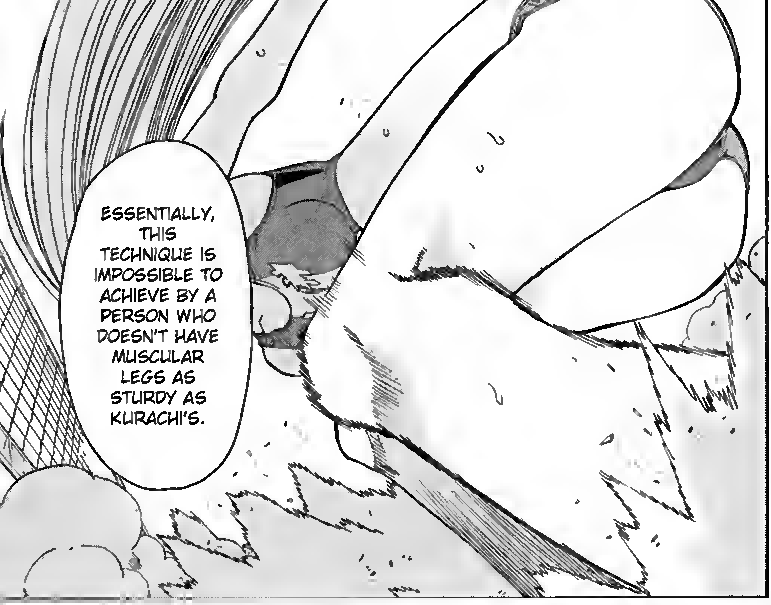
THAT'S NOT GOOD! YAMAGAMI IS TOTALLY DOMINATING THE MATCH!

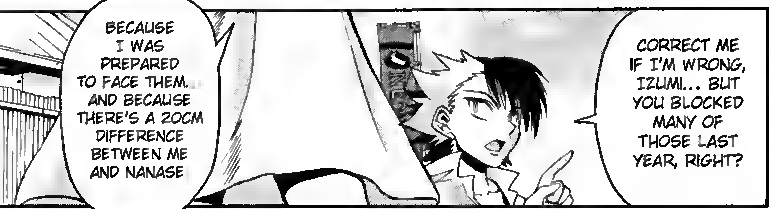

...and gives a sixth point to her team!!
Kurachi continues with her unstoppable technique ...
Higasaki (B) 1 — 6 Yamagami (A)

HERE, THE GROUND'S INERTIA DOESN'T ALLOW YOU TO JUMP LIKE YOU WANT
Force
Repulsive Force
SAND AND CONCRETE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS...
IN THE QUALIFICATIONS, THIS TECHNIQUE IS ALMOST UNSTOPPABLE.
SHE WAS ABLE TO SCORE FIVE STRAIGHT POINTS THANKS TO THE CROSS SPIKE...

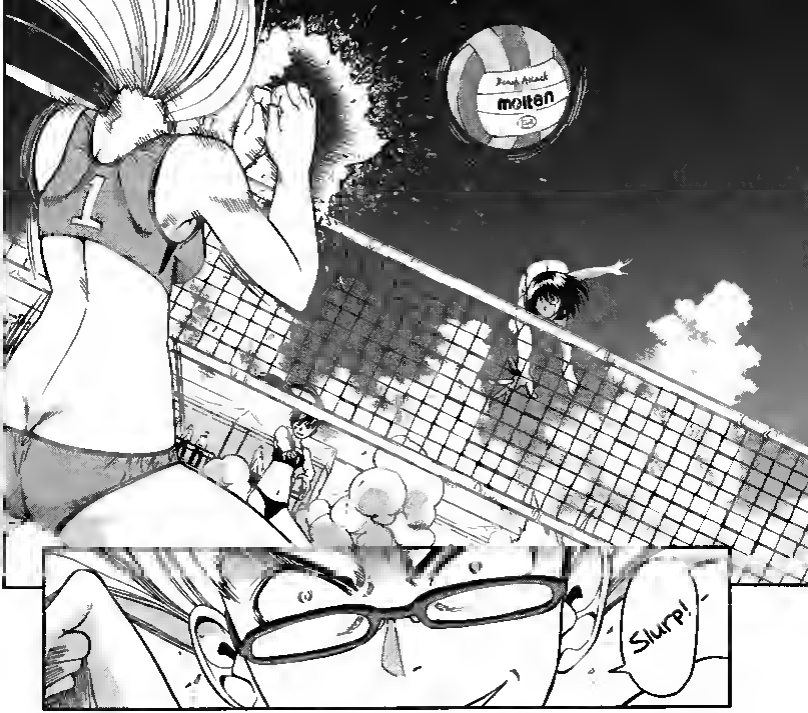

...BY SPINNING YOURSELF INTO THE AIR AND PLACING YOURSELF IN AN OPTIMAL POSITION...
WHAT'S MORE, TO USE THE CROSS SPIKE, YOU NEED TO HIT THE BALL ON THE SIDELINES...


IT IS THEREFORE VITAL TO POSSESS JUMPING POWER SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE A STABLE POSITION


ESSENTIALLY, THIS TECHNIQUE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE BY A PERSON WHO DOESN'T HAVE MUSCULAR LEGS AS STURDY AS KURACHI'S.


BECAUSE I WAS PREPARED TO FACE THEM. AND BECAUSE THERE'S A 20CM DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND NANASE
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, IZUMI... BUT YOU BLOCKED MANY OF THOSE LAST YEAR, RIGHT?

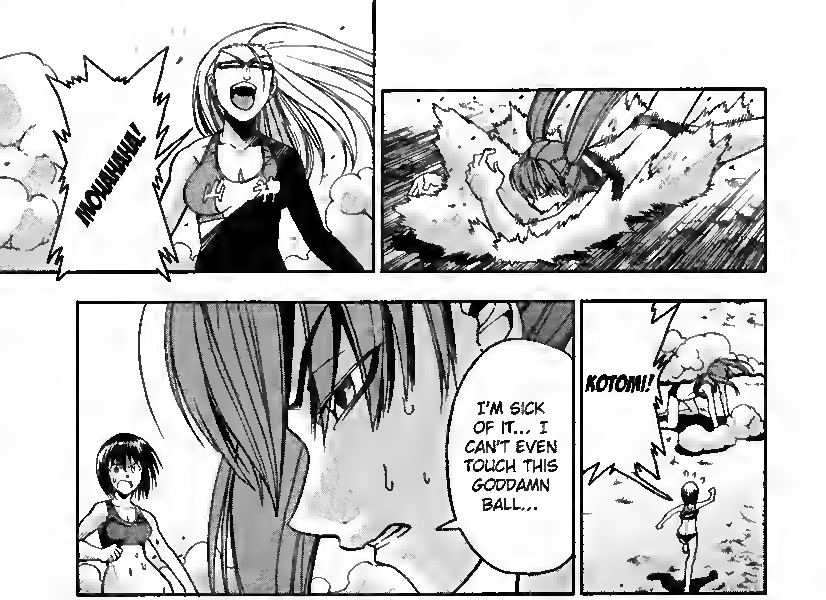
Nanase yet again spikes directly after Ishihara's reception!!
.....


Deep Attack
molten
Slurp!

On the other hand, Yamagami don't make any unnecessary moves. We recognize here their great control of the ball!
Ouch!! Missed!! Even with desperate shots, Higasaki can't score!

I TOLD YOU I'D KILL YOUR DREAM ...
WHAT'S WRONG, ISHIHARA?!
NOOOOO!!
...YOU DON'T HAVE IT IN YOU!!

Did Higasaki's team reach its limit?!
Kurachi uses the Cross Spike again!!
Higasaki (B) 1 — 7 Yamagami (A)


MOUHAHAHA!
I'M SICK OF IT... I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH THIS GODDAMN BALL...
KOTOMI!

THAT'LL TEACH YOU!!
YOU ONLY GOT WHAT YOU DESERVED!

I♡MY HOOD
DRUPA

12

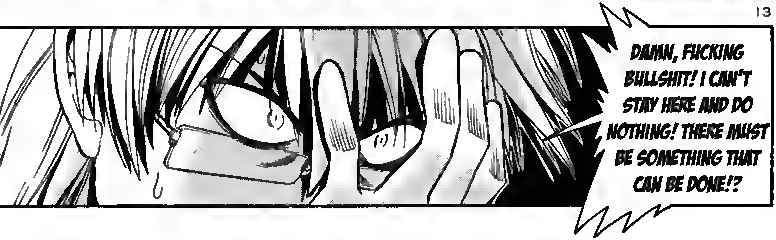
DAMN IT. NOBUO! YOU WERE A MEMBER OF A VOLLEYBALL CLUB, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY WAY OF COUNTERING THIS CROSS-THINGY!?

WE'RE IN DEEP SHIT! WE MUST DO SOMETHING ...
IF NOT, WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP!

WOW... CALM DOWN

HOWEVER, BEACH VOLLEYBALL IS PLAYED WITH ONLY TWO PLAYERS AND THE TECHNIQUE I KNOW WON'T WORK

... WHEN YOU PLAY IN A SIX-MAN TEAM, YOU CAN COUNTER THE BALL EASILY AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE TO RECEIVE IT AND SEND IT BACK.
LISTEN, VOLLEYBALL AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL ARE DIFFERENT ...

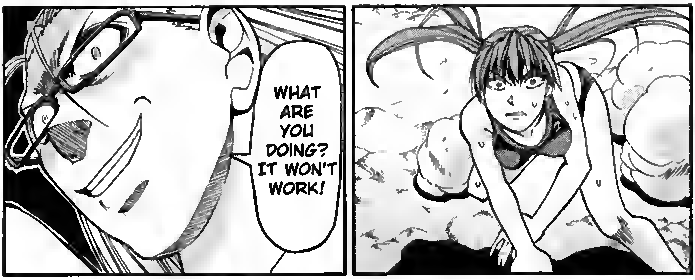

DAMN, FUCKING BULLSHIT! I CAN'T STAY HERE AND DO NOTHING! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE!?

I'M ALWAYS LATE ON THE BALL
TOO BAD, I'M TAKING THE RISK OF GOING CLOSER TO THE NET SOONER!
Higasaki doesn't want to give any point to Yamagami, who now have nine!!
Higasaki (B) 1 — 9 Yamagami (A)

OOOOH!!

WHY WON'T YOU GIVE UP...?

I... I MUST ABSOLUTELY FIND A WAY TO COUNTER!!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT WON'T WORK!

SHIT!

And she scoooooores!! The gap widens again thanks to this spike from Kurachi!!
Yamagami gains a tenth point!!
NOOOO!!
Everything seems lost now for Higasaki...
Higasaki (B) 1 —10 Yamagami (A)

THERE'S NO SOLUTION...

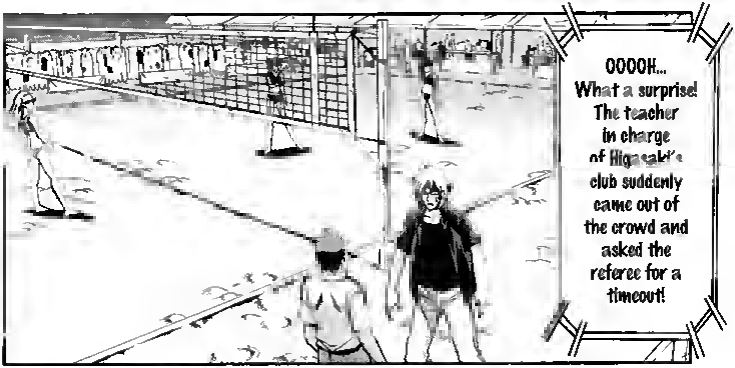
OKAY! I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO, SO LET'S FINISH THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
IT WAS WAY EASIER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ...
TIMEOUT!!
WHAT !?

HIGASAKI'S TEAM ASKS FOR A TIMEOUT!!
WHAT!? BUT... WHO ARE YOU!?
HONDA-SENSEI!?
I'M THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF THEIR CLUB!!

はあっ
はあっ
Oooh... That's surprising! The teacher of Higasaki's team has just brutally jumped on the court!

CHAPTER 48
TIMEOUT!

The Beach Stars


OOOOH... What a surprise! The teacher in charge of Higeaki's club suddenly came out of the crowd and asked the referee for a timeout!

2

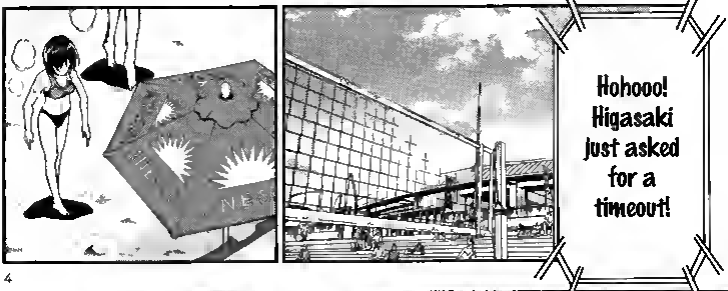
EH? HUMVEE ?

.....

COME BACK, MORON! IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY !!
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING? HE'S CRAZY!

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT?!
REALLY ?!
THE RULES ARE CLEAR, SIR. ONLY PLAYERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR A TIMEOUT!
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH! GET OFF THE COURT OR I'LL BE FORCED TO DISQUALIFY YOUR TEAM!
TIMEOUT!!

TEAM HIGASAKI ...
...ASKS FOR A TIMEOUT, PLEASE!

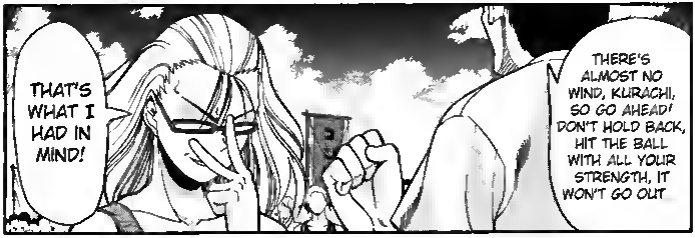

Hohooo! Higasaki just asked for a timeout!

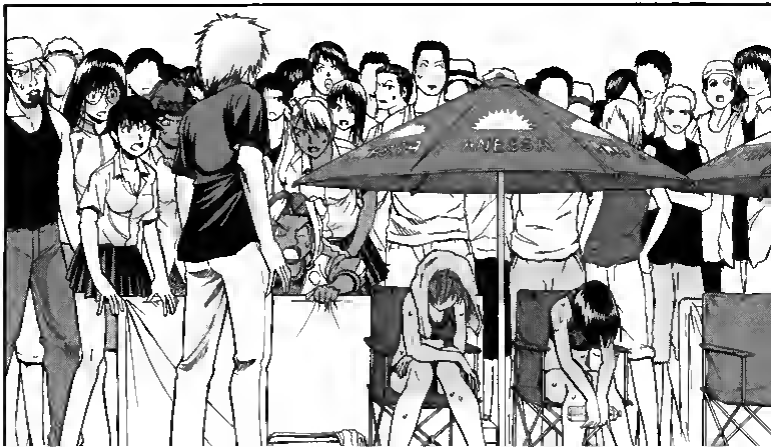
YOU'RE DOING GREAT, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
MICHIRU! BRING THEM WATER! QUICKLY!!

...One during the first two sets and the other during the third set. The timeouts last 30 seconds and can't be used while the ball is in play.
During this small break, I'll explain what's happening! During a match, each team can use two timeouts...
I'M SURPRISED THEIR TEACHER ASKED FOR A TIMEOUT...
Another kind of timeout exists, the technical timeout, which happens when the sum total of both team scores equals 21.
EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT BEACH VOLLEY-BALL!
These two kinds of timeout allow the players to catch their breath and, at the same time, build an offensive strategy.
HAHA! IT SMELLS OF AN AMATEUR TEAM THAT WAS PUT TOGETHER AT THE LAST MINUTE!

BUT IT WOULD BE BAD TO OVEREXERT OURSELVES MORE THAN NECESSARY JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE HOLDING ON!
10 TO 1... VICTORY IS ALMOST OURS ALREADY!

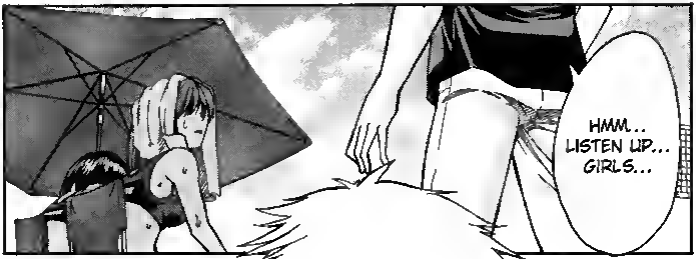
THANKS COACH.
YOU GIRLS ARE PERFECT!


THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
THERE'S ALMOST NO WIND, KURACHI, SO GO AHEAD! DON'T HOLD BACK, HIT THE BALL WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, IT WON'T GO OUT



DAMN... AS THEIR TEACHER, IN THESE MOMENTS, I SHOULD BE HELPING THE PLAYERS IN SOME WAY...

BY JINGO! HOW CAN WE STOP THE CROSS SPIKE!?
STOP YELLING, MORON! WE ARE ALL THINKING OF A WAY TO COUNTER IT!!


HMM... LISTEN UP... GIRLS...

IN FACT... HMM...
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK...

...
OKAY
....
THAT'S ALL YOU COULD COME UP WITH?! IDIOT!
THEY'RE GIVING IT ALL THEY'VE GOT AND WHEN THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT, YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING BETTER TO SAY THAN "KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK"?!
SORRY FOR NOT BEING UP TO THE TASK...
BUT I KNEW IT FROM THE START, THAT I'M A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING ..

I ♡ MY HOOD
ANESSA
ANESSA

THAT'S ENOUGH! I MUST DO SOME-THING!!
MOVE, FOOLS!!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
NANASE! ISHI-HARA!!
WOW!
OI OI OLD MAN! DON'T TOUCH ME!

FUJII

FUJII-
SENSEI!!
FUJII
...

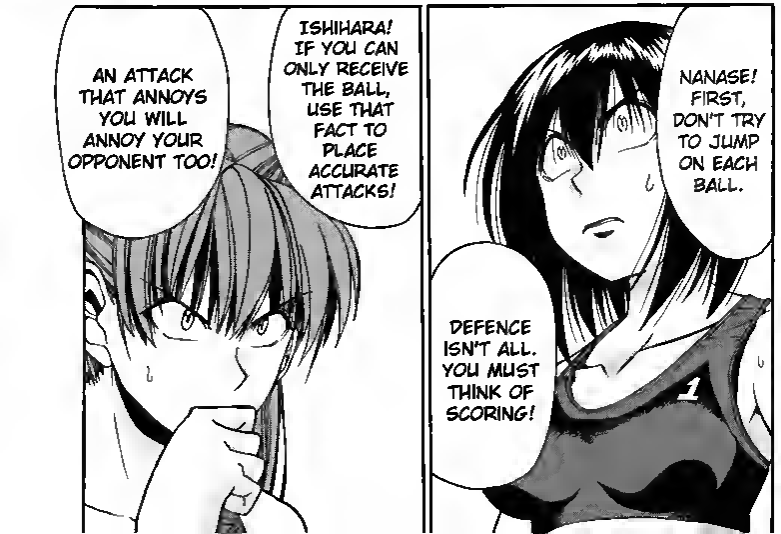
A SENILE OLD FOOL WHO'S A TEACHER AT OUR SCHOOL!
WHO'S THAT OLD FART?!
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE?!
!?
UNTIL IT WAS CLOSED.
ORIGIN-ALLY, HE WAS THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF THE TRADITIONAL VOLLEYBALL CLUB...

FU... FUJII-SENSEI ...
I DON'T THINK HE'S HERE TO HELP US...
YOU THINK HE'S HERE TO GIVE US SHIT?!

Inhale
HELP ME..
!
SENSEI... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE..
IDIOOOOOTS!!

AND DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE BEATEN PUPPY EYES!
UNK
BOTH OF YOU ARE REALLY PITIFUL!!

I THOUGHT THAT YOU GAVE UP VOLLEYBALL TO FOCUS SOLELY ON BEACH VOLLEYBALL?
AND WHAT AM I SEEING? YOU'RE GIVING UP WHEN THE FIRST PROBLEM ARISES!!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO I'LL BE SHORT...
WHAT?


NANASE! FIRST, DON'T TRY TO JUMP ON EACH BALL.
DEFENCE ISN'T ALL. YOU MUST THINK OF SCORING!
ISHIHARA! IF YOU CAN ONLY RECEIVE THE BALL, USE THAT FACT TO PLACE ACCURATE ATTACKS!
AN ATTACK THAT ANNOYS YOU WILL ANNOY YOUR OPPONENT TOO!

ROGER!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, HE WAS ABLE TO REIGNITE THE FLAMES IN THEIR EYES...
THAT'S HOW YOU RECOGNIZE A REAL TEACHER IN CHARGE!

SORRY THAT I COULDN'T BE PART OF THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF VOLLEYBALL, SIR..
BUT WE'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU BY GOING TO THE BEACH VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP!!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO HEAR! BUT IF YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BRAG, YOU ALSO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO HIT THE BALL!
SO GO OUT THERE AND SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
YEEESSS!!

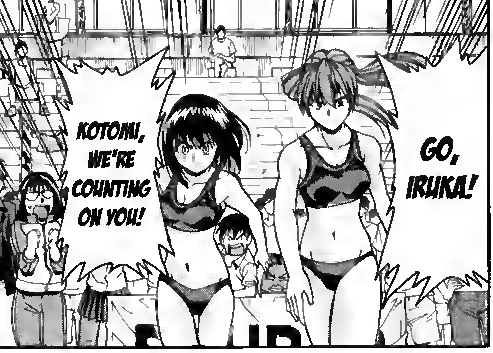
In a few moments, we'll know if Higasaki's able to come back on the score sheet!
Good! The timeout is now over, ladies and gentlemen. The match will be resumed.
Higasaki (B) 1 — 10 Yamagami (A)
...BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!!
LISTEN TO ME: THEY MIGHT HAVE TRAINED LIKE MAD MEN...

I MADE YOU SUFFER SO MUCH DURING OUR TIME TOGETHER THAT THEIR PREPARATION IS LIKE VACATION COMPARED TO OURS!

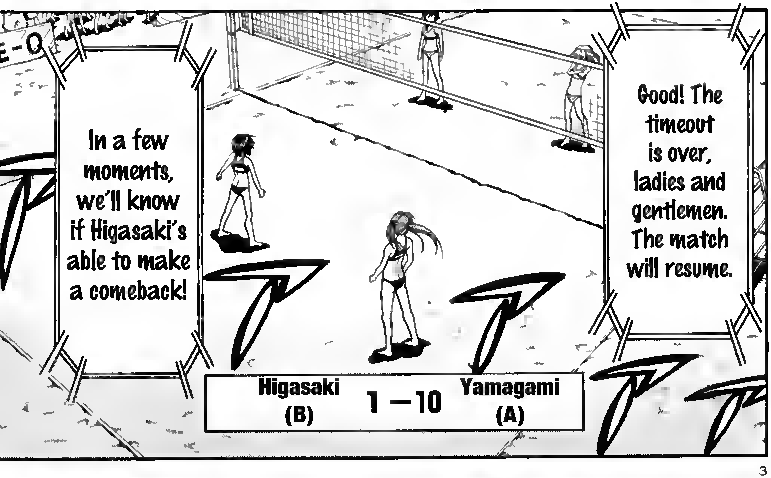
CHAPTER 49
MY OWN WAY OF FIGHTING

The Beach Stars

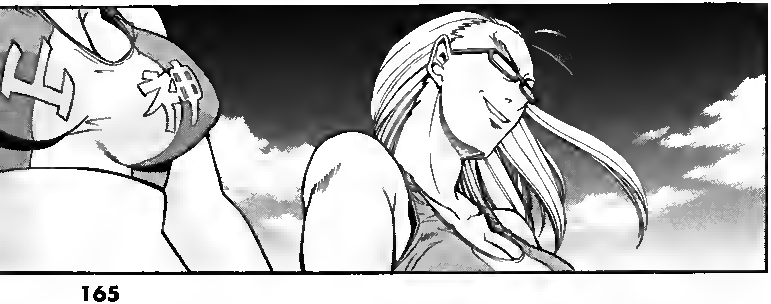
GOOD!


KOTOMI, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
GO, IRUKA!

LET'S GO BACK!


In a few moments, we'll know if Higasaki's able to make a comeback!
Good! The timeout is over, ladies and gentlemen. The match will resume.
Higasaki (B) 1 — 10 Yamagami (A)

3



Yama-
gami's
serving.
molten
4
4!!!

Amano chose to play it safe with her serve...
Ishihara receives the ball easily and passes it to her partner!!
THEY DON'T WANT IKUKA TO GET THE THIRD TOUCH!!
OH NO! THEY KEEP AIMING AT KOTOMI!!
NYARK!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, KOTOMI?!
AND WHATEVER YOU MIGHT TRY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!!
HAHAHA! AS LONG AS YOU KEEP RECEIVING THE BALL ISHIHARA, CHIBI WON'T BE ABLE TO SMASH!!

I HAVE AN IDEA!
PASS ME THE BALL ...

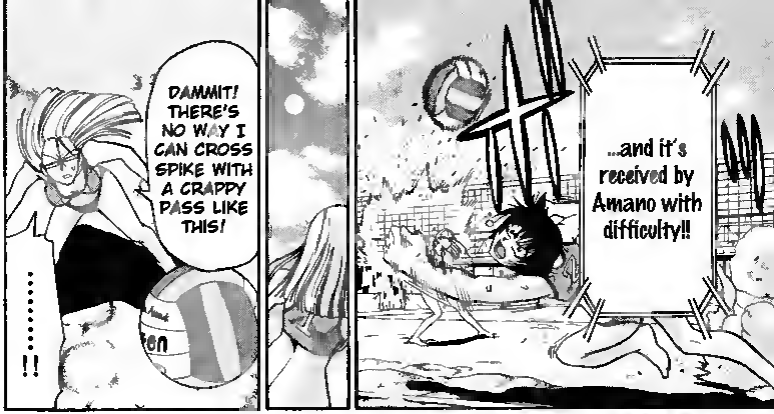
ROGER!!
WHAT!?
YES, THAT'S THE WAY...

AN ATTACK THAT ANNOYS YOU WILL ANNOY YOUR OPPONENT TOO!
IF YOU CAN ONLY RECEIVE THE BALL, USE THAT FACT TO PLACE ACCURATE ATTACKS!

ME TOO. I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF FIGHTING!
THAT'S RIGHT...

...AT ONE PLACE!!
AND TO ACHIEVE IT, I CAN ONLY AIM..
?

SIGE-O
PILOT
PILOT
9
8
Good thinking Ishihara! The ball is going toward the baseline!
AMANO!!


DAMMIT! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CROSS SPIKE WITH A CRAPPY PASS LIKE THIS!
.....!!
...and it's received by Amano with difficulty!!

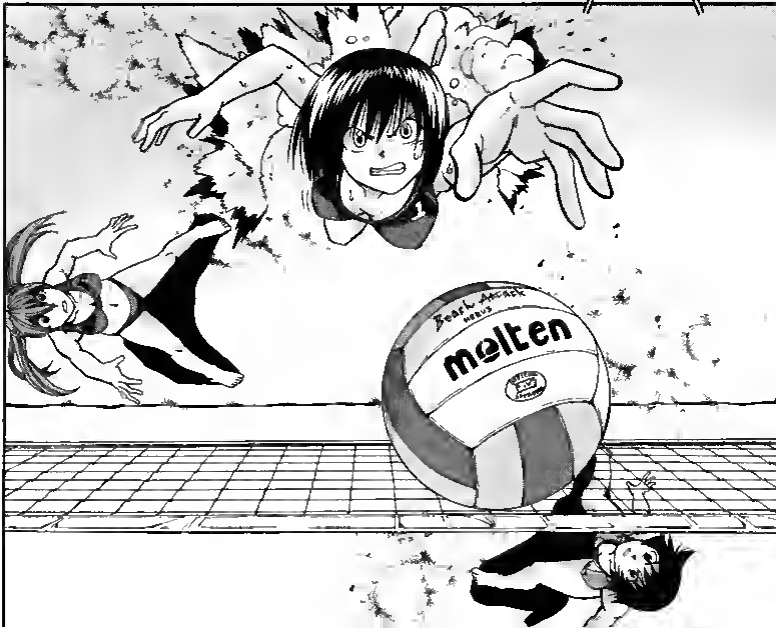
SHE DID IT ON PURPOSE !!
THAT... THAT BITCH...

...THIS MEANS THAT AMANO WILL HAVE TO DO THE THIRD TOUCH, AT THE SAME TIME SEALING KURACHI'S CROSS SPIKE.
KEEP ON TALKING! I DON'T UNDER-STAND SHIT!!
GOOD LORD, IT WAS OBVI-OUS!!
BASICALLY, THEY'RE USING THEIR OWN TECHNIQUE AGAINST THEM!
SHE'S AIMING AT AMANO, THE SECOND TOUCH WILL OBVIOUSLY GO TO KURACHI ...

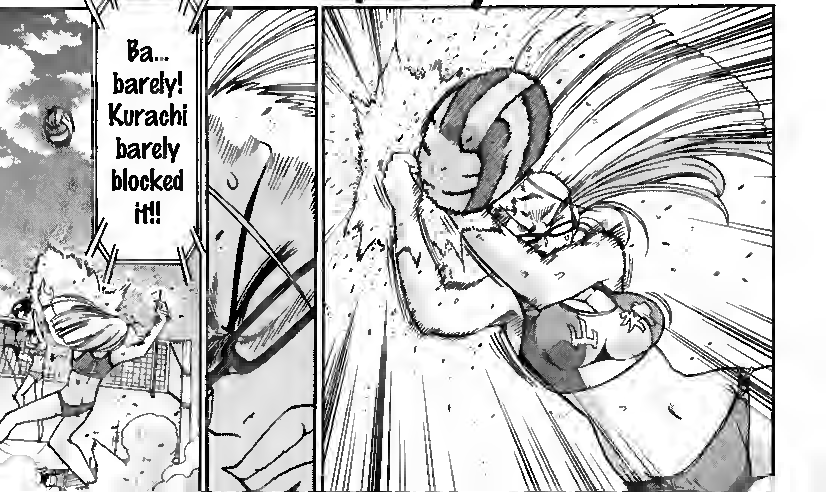
ISHIHARA IS REALLY GOOD. SHE'S ABLE TO ACCURATELY SEND THE BALL WHEREVER SHE WANTS, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE BASELINE
...THE PLAYER MUST ALWAYS RECEIVE A PERFECT PASS NEXT TO THE NET.
TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE CROSS SPIKE...
Woow!! It's a perfect reception from Nanase!!
Amano's going to the net to spike and...
...they'll crush any chance Kurachi might have to use the Cross Spike!
Yes! As long as they keep aiming at Ishihara on their serve...

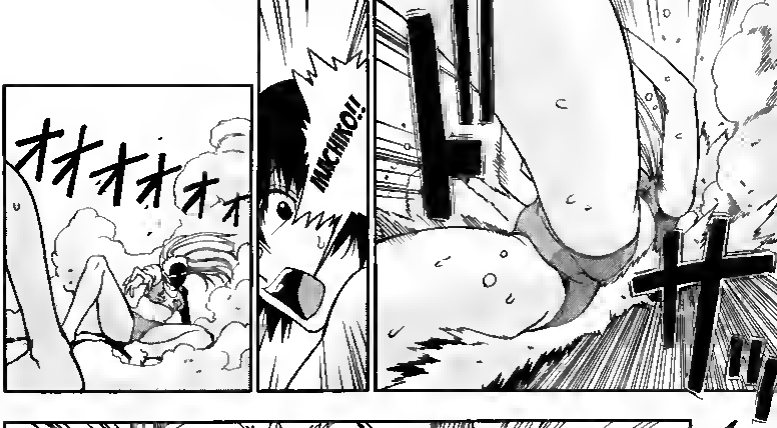
オオオオ
DO IT, IRUKA! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!!
HALLELUJAH!! WE FINALLY HAVE A CHANCE OF SCORING!!

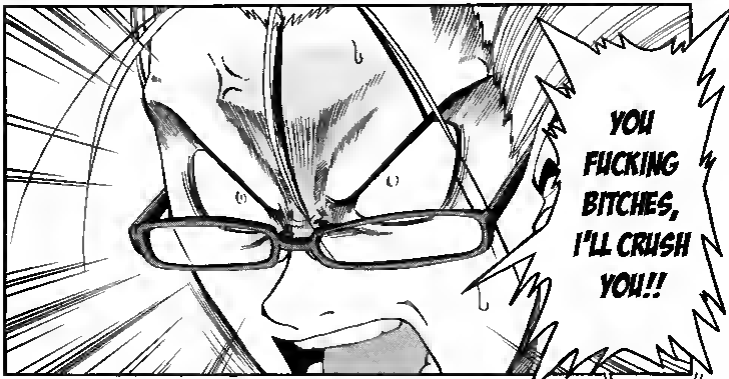
BANZAI!!!
Ishihara passes the ball next to the net ...


molten

DON'T COUNT ON IT!!


Ba... barely! Kurachi barely blocked it!!


オオオオオオ
IMCHIKO!!


YOU FUCKING BITCHES, I'LL CRUSH YOU!!

GIVE UP, HIGA-SAKIIII!!
ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN DEFENSE WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING!
MOHAHA-HAHA! I CAN FINALLY SPIKE!
Kurachi's preparing her revenge and is about to attack!

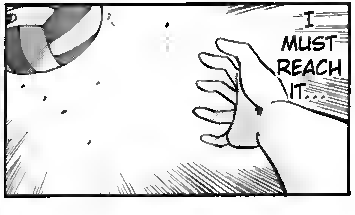
HERE IT IS, THE CROSS SPIKE!!

DEFENSE ISN'T EVERY-THING, YOU MUST SCORE TOO!
NANASE!

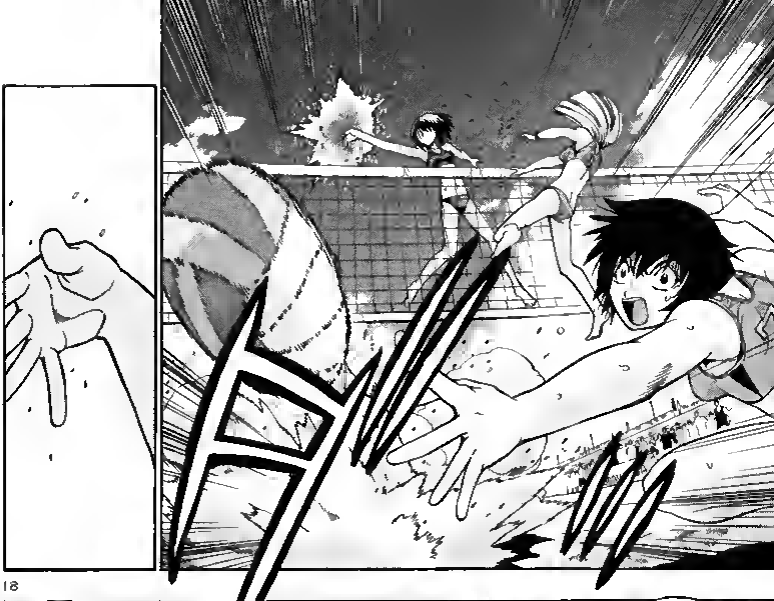
... I MUST SCORE TOO!
HE'S RIGHT! I FOCUS ONLY ON DEFENSE... CAN'T...

15

I MUST REACH IT!!


I MUST REACH IT...

I REA-CHED IT!!
OFFICIAL FIVB APPROVED

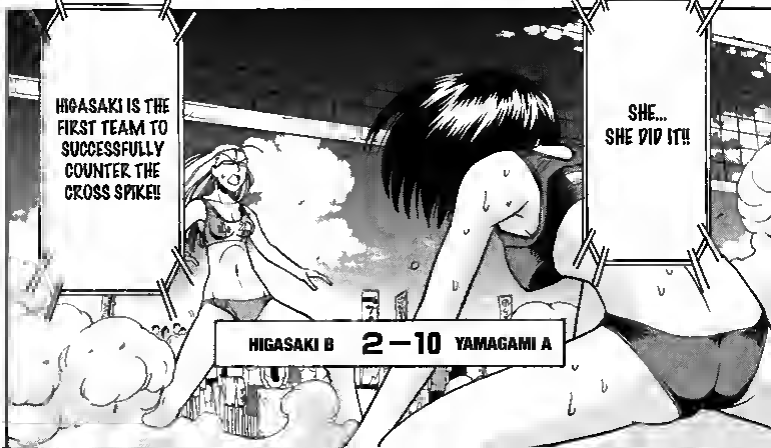


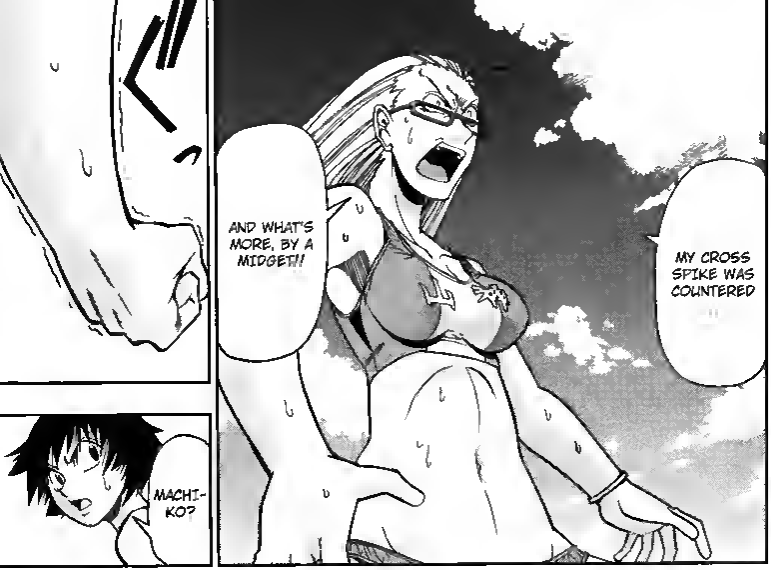
...IS DIFFERENT, AS IF IT... HAS EVOLVED.
IT FEELS AS IF HER COUNTER ...
She... she countered the Cross Spike!!
To everyone's surprise, Nanase has just achieved a feat that nobody else has managed in this competition!
Higasaki (B) 2 — 10 Yamagami (A)

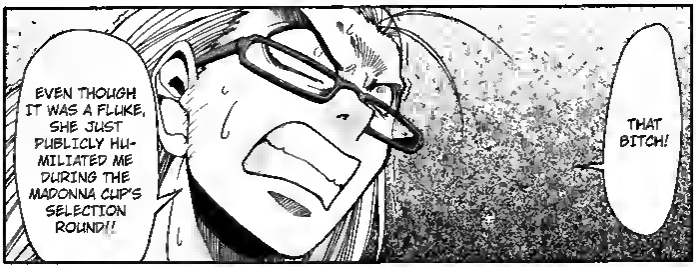
CHAPTER 50

LET'S KEEP GOING LIKE THIS!

2


HIGASAKI IS THE FIRST TEAM TO SUCCESSFULLY COUNTER THE CROSS SPIKE!!
SHE... SHE DID IT!!
HIGASAKI B 2—10 YAMAGAMI A


MY CROSS SPIKE WAS COUNTERED
AND WHAT'S MORE, BY A MIDGET!!
MACHI-KO?


THAT BITCH!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A FLUKE, SHE JUST PUBLICLY HU-MILIATED ME DURING THE MADONNA CUP'S SELECTION ROUND!!

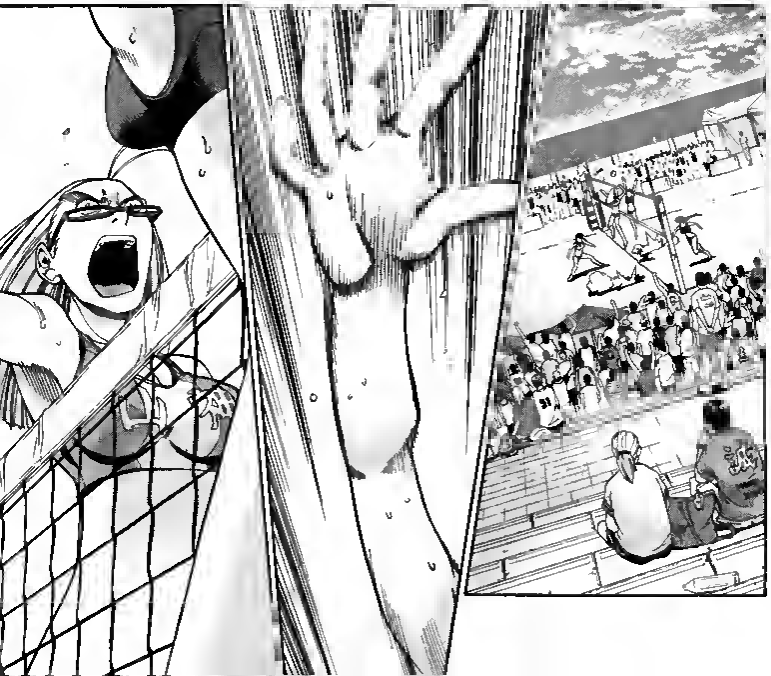
SO IT CAN BE DONE.
IT'S POSSIBLE TO STOP THE CROSS SPIKE!

WITH THIS POINT, THE SERVING SIDE CHANGES TO HIGASAKI
IT'S NANASE'S TURN TO SERVE.

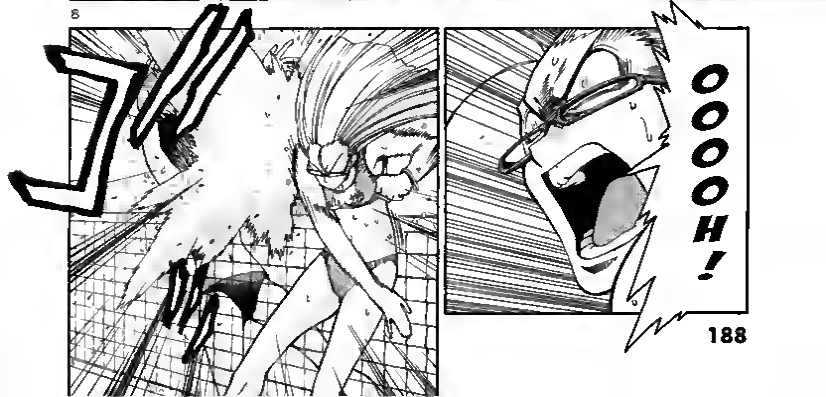
ウルアーン
SHE WASTES NO TIME AND IS BACK ON THE COURT AS SOON AS HER SERVE GOES OVER THE NET!
THE BALL IS GOING TOWARD AMANO
MOVE! IT'S MINE!!

AMANO!!
OH DAMN! KURACHI TOTALLY INSISTED TO GET THAT BALL!
DAMN! SHE'LL USE THE CROSS SPIKE AGAIN!!
AMANO UNDERSTOOD RIGHT AWAY AND REACTED INSTANTLY THEY ARE DEFINITELY PARTNERS!!
A MIRACLE WON'T HAPPEN TWICE!!
"DEFENCE ISN'T ALL ..."
IRUKA!

NOBODY IN KANAGAWA IS ABLE TO BLOCK MY SPIKE!! YOU HEAR ME? NOBODY!!
"YOU MUST SCORE TOO!"



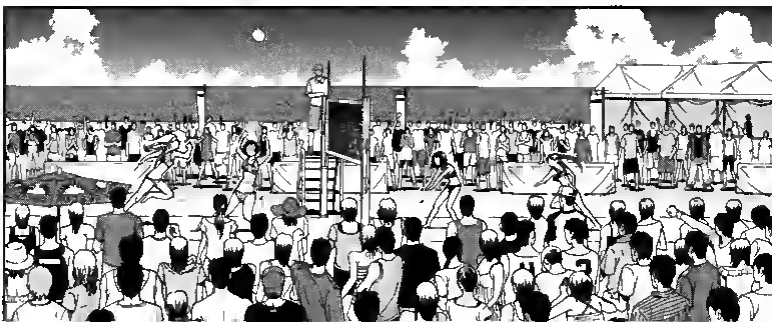
-BURIN-
-BURIN-
OH!


OOOOH!

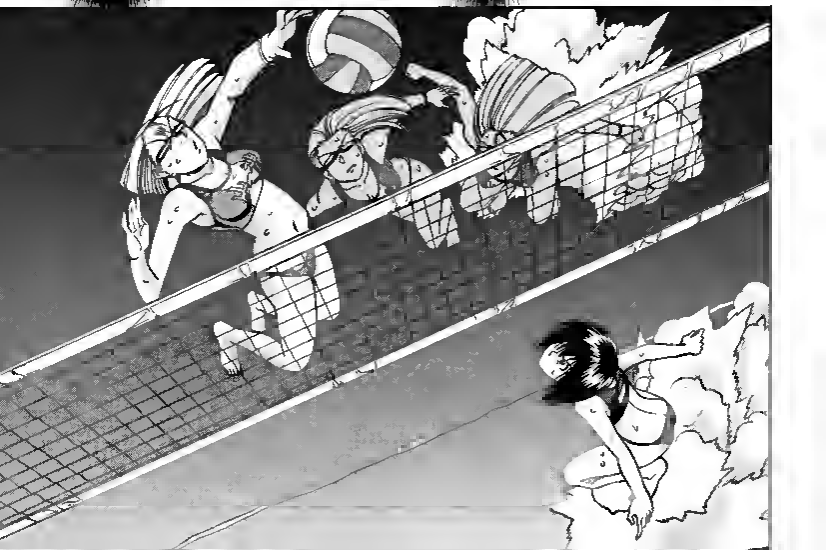
SHE WAS ABLE TO COUNTER IT!!
オオオオ

GREAT! GREAT! HIGASAKI JUST SCORED THEIR THIRD POINT! THE TIDE IS SLOWLY TURNING AROUND!!
ワアア
YEEEESSSS!!

HER STANCE IS MORE STABLE
?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. HER COUNTER CHANGED DRASTICALLY.
WHAT'S MORE AT THE MOMENT OF THE CROSS SPIKE SHE'S STRETCHING HER ARMS TO THE MAXIMUM, FROM THE SHOULDER BLADE TO THE TIPS OF HER FINGERS. TO CUT THE BALL'S TRAJECTORY.
BUT NOW, SHE'S FIRMLY STRETCHING BOTH OF HER ARMS FORWARD
UNTIL NOW, SHE WASN'T STRETCHING HER ARMS' MUSCLES AND WAS JUST FOLLOWING THE BALL'S TRAJECTORY. EVEN IF SHE REACHED IT, SHE WOULD BE MISSING THE STRENGTH TO SEND IT BACK



. AND WATCH HER MOVEMENTS CAREFULLY.
STAY CALM, IRUKA. YOU MUST WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT
IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN STOP IT!!
OR STRAIGHT?
TO THE RIGHT? TO THE LEFT?



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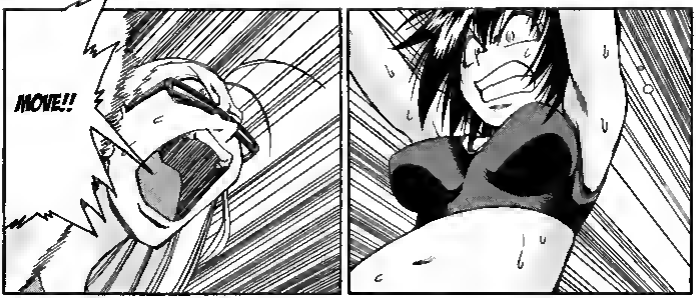
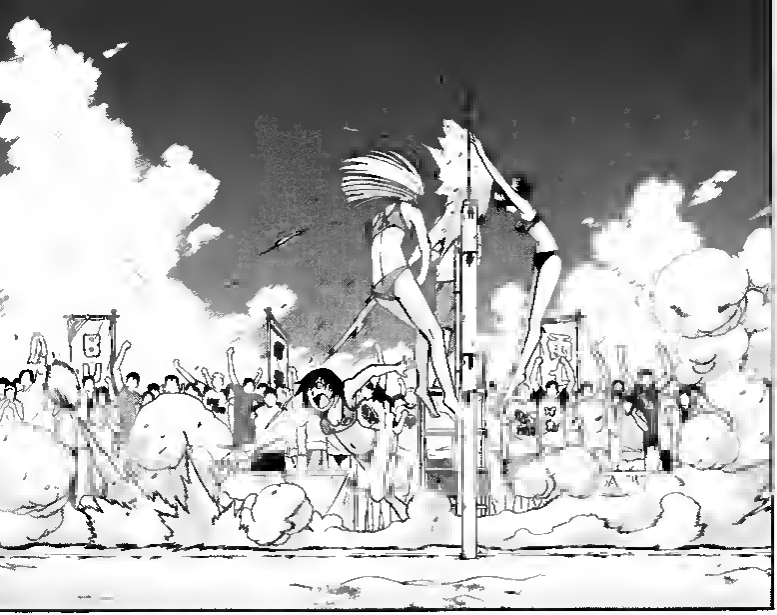
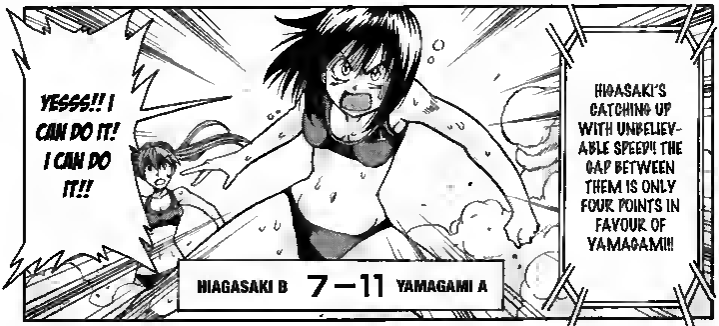




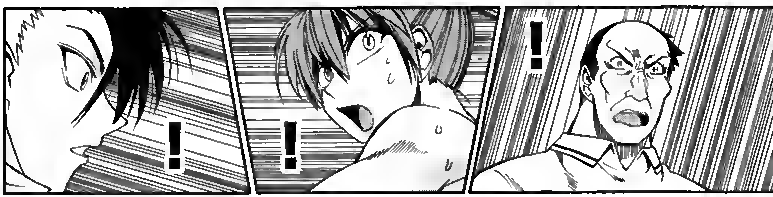
NICEEE !!
OOOH!

13


YESSS!! I CAN DO IT! I CAN DO IT!!
HIAGASAKI B 7—11 YAMAGAMI A
HIOASAKI'S CATCHING UP WITH UNBELIEV-ABLE SPEED!! THE GAP BETWEEN THEM IS ONLY FOUR POINTS IN FAVOUR OF YAMAGAMI!!

はあっ
はあ
YEAH! LET'S GO!
COME ON, KOTOMI, LET'S KEEP GOING LIKE THIS!
FUCKING SHIIIIT!!!
IT'S ME!!
I'M THE BEST!!
THE BEST PLAYER IN KANAGAWA IS ME!!

BEFORE SHE WAS FOLLOWING KURACHI LIKE A PUPPY BY JUMPING AT THE SAME TIME AS HER
NOW, SHE PAYS ATTENTION TO KURACHI'S MOVEMENTS BEFORE JUMPING
BUT SHE'S STARTING TO OBSERVE HER OPPONENT
NOT ONLY IS HER STANCE STABILIZING
SHE MIGHT EVEN TRANSFORM DURING THIS MATCH!
SHE'S EVOLVING AT A LUDICROUS SPEED..
YAMAGAMI ISN'T ABLE TO WIDEN THE GAP AND IS NOW LEADING BY ONLY 2 POINTS!!
HIGASAKI B 14—16 YAMAGAMI A



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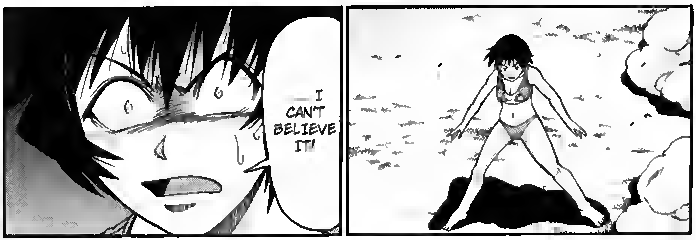
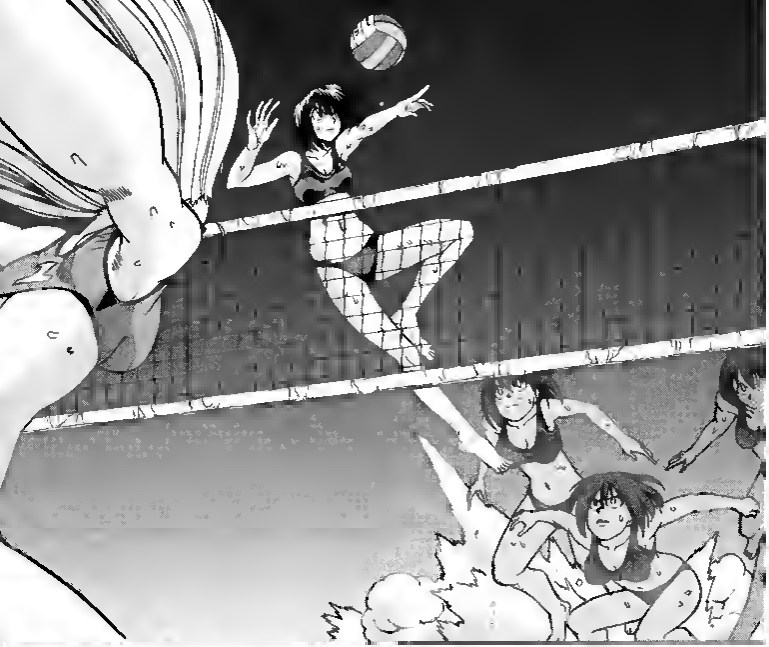




DO YOU HEAR ME?! IT'S ME!!

I AM THE BEST!!
MACHIKO, BE CAREFUL!

A CROSS SPIKE!!

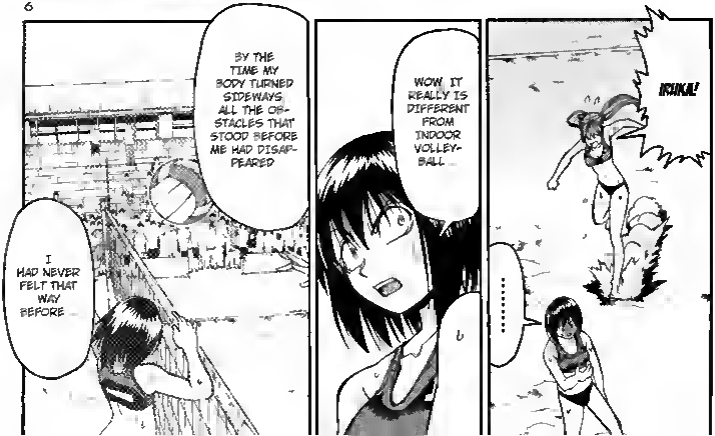
CHAPTER 51
ONE IN THE BAG!!

A CROSS SPIKE!!!
I... I DID IT?
3
2

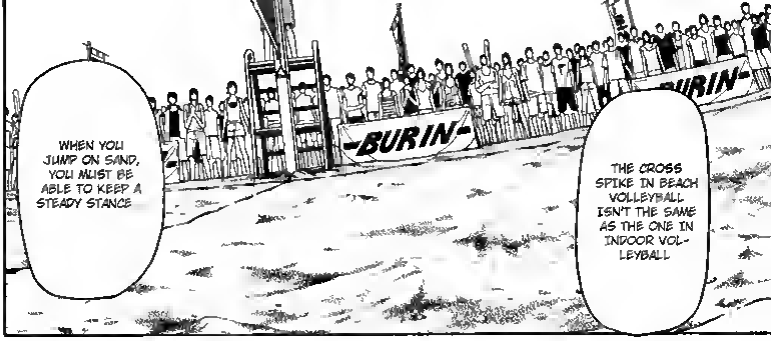
HOW DID SHE DO THAT? IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!!
BUT.. IT'S MY TECH-NIQUE?!

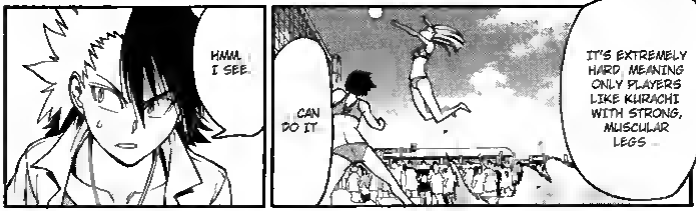
オオオオ
IT... IT WAS A CROSS SPIKE!!
NANASE JUST SCORED USING THE SAME TECHNIQUE AS HER OPPONENT!!
I DIDN'T KNOW
SHE'S REALLY AWESOME! IT TURNS OUT SHE WAS ABLE TO DO THE CROSS SPIKE TOO!!
THAT'S NOT IT. THIS CROSS SPIKE AND HER HABIT ARE SPECIAL...
NO!
THIS MEANS THAT THE GAP IS ONLY ONE POINT. A SINGLE POINT!!
HIGASAKI JUST SHOWED US A SURPRISING TRUMP CARD
HIGASAKI B 15 - 16 YAMAGAMI A

BY DINT OF JUMPING TO COUNTER, SHE GRADUALLY ASSIMILATED HER MOVEMENTS
IN FACT, NANASE COPIED KURACHI'S CROSS SPIKE...
WHETHER IT'S THE HANDS THE LEGS THE KNEES OR THE SHOULDER SHE COPIED EVERYTHING PERFECTLY!
SHE LEARNED BY MIMICRY!!

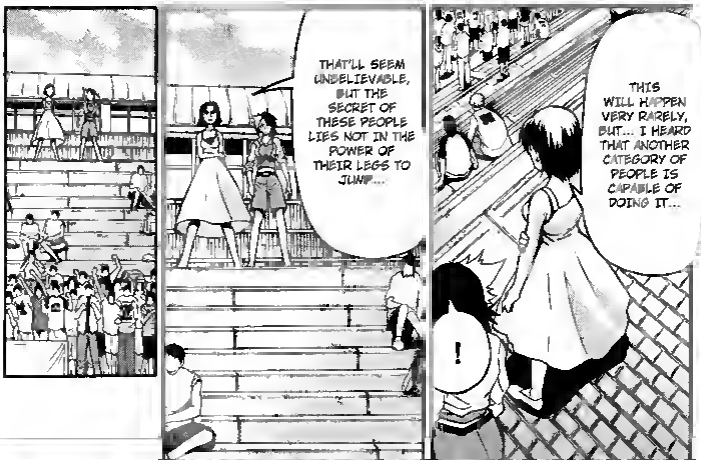

BY THE TIME MY BODY TURNED SIDEWAYS ALL THE OBSTACLES THAT STOOD BEFORE ME HAD DISAPPEARED
I HAD NEVER FELT THAT WAY BEFORE...
WOW IT REALLY IS DIFFERENT FROM INDOOR VOLLEYBALL...
RIIKA!
.....

AND I WAS ABLE TO SPIKE TO A FREE CORNER WITHOUT DIFFICULTY
SO THAT'S IT. THE TRUMP CARD OF THE QUEEN OF THE COURTS?
THE CROSS SPIKE!!
トアアア
HMM. TELL ME, IZUMI, DO YOU THINK THAT BY KNOWING HOW TO DO SOMETHING YOU CAN DO IT?
……

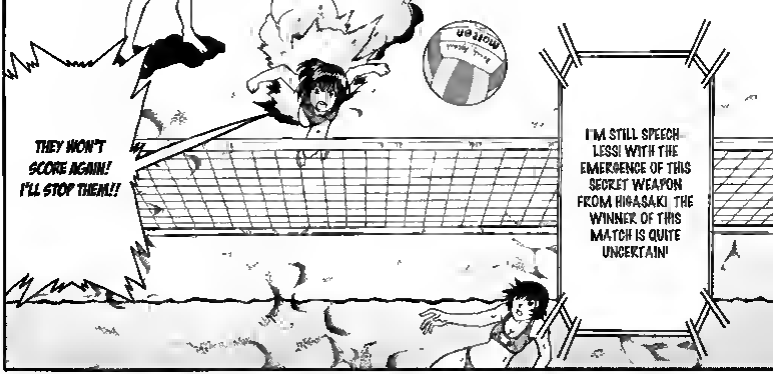

-BURIN-
-BURIN-
WHEN YOU JUMP ON SAND, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO KEEP A STEADY STANCE
THE CROSS SPIKE IN BEACH VOLLEYBALL ISN'T THE SAME AS THE ONE IN INDOOR VOLLEYBALL

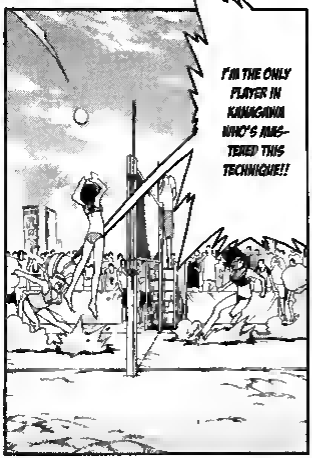

HMM, I SEE.
CAN DO IT.
IT'S EXTREMELY HARD, MEANING ONLY PLAYERS LIKE KURACHI WITH STRONG, MUSCULAR LEGS...

HOWEVER THERE IS AN EXCEPTION...


THAT'LL SEEM UNBELIEVABLE, BUT THE SECRET OF THESE PEOPLE LIES NOT IN THE POWER OF THEIR LEGS TO JUMP...
THIS WILL HAPPEN VERY RARELY, BUT... I HEARD THAT ANOTHER CATEGORY OF PEOPLE IS CAPABLE OF DOING IT...
!

...BUT IN AN INNATE SENSE OF BALANCE TO STRIKE IN THE AIR!

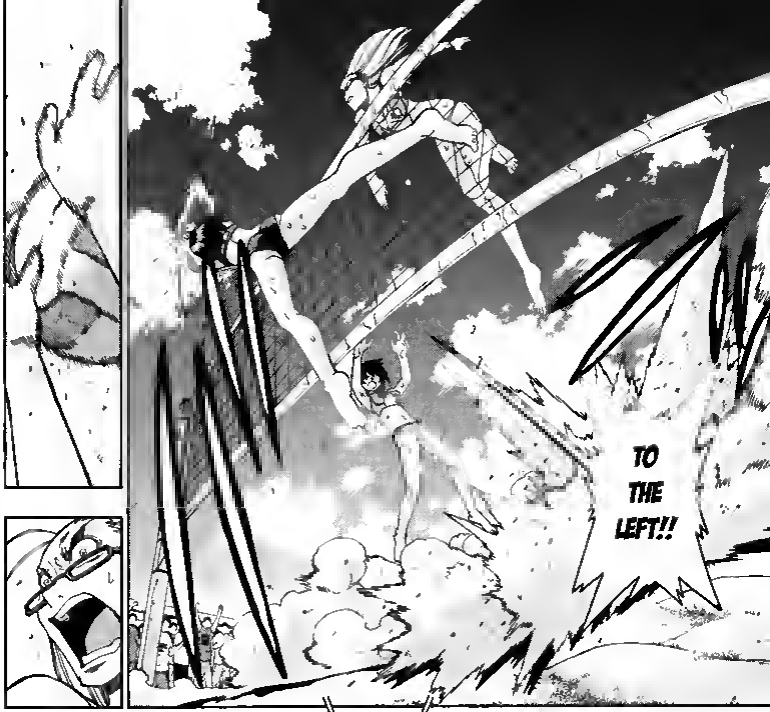

THEY WON'T SCORE AGAIN! I'LL STOP THEM!!
I'M STILL SPEECHLESS! WITH THE EMERGENCE OF THIS SECRET WEAPON FROM HIGASAKI THE WINNER OF THIS MATCH IS QUITE UNCERTAIN!


I'M THE ONLY PLAYER IN KANAGAWA WHO'S MASTERED THIS TECHNIQUE!!

A MIDGET IS ABLE TO DO A CROSS SPIKE?! WHAT'S NEXT?!

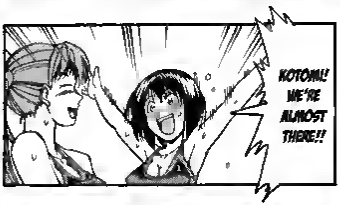
THE JOKE IS OVER!!

THE ONLY ONE!!
THAT'S...
IT'S A FAST CROSS SPIKE!!
WHAT INCREDIBLE SPEED!!
YAA-AAH!!
NOOO OOO!


TO THE LEFT!!

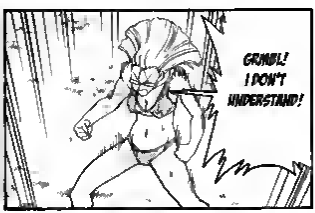
NANASE MANAGED TO ANTICIPATE KURACHI'S FURIOUS ATTACK AND COUNTERED IT ON-THE-SPOT!
HINASAKI INTERCEPTED THE BALL!!
SHE STOPPED IT!?

FROM A DESPERATE GAP OF NINE POINTS HIGASAKI S PLAYERS WERE ABLE TO LEVEL THE SCORE!
SHE ALLOWS HER TEAM TO EQUALIZE!
HIGASAKI B 18 – 18 YAMAGAMI A


KOTOMI! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!

HER MAJESTY IS THE BEST!
IN... INSANE!

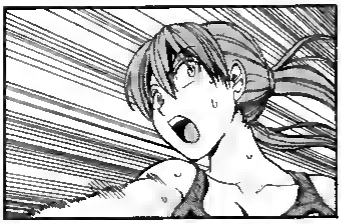
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO TELL HER...
FINALLY... SHE WAS ABLE TO FIND KURACHI'S WEAKNESS ON HER OWN...

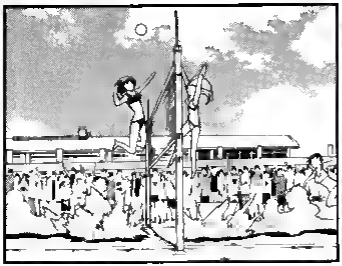

GRRR! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

HOW CAN SHE PREDICT WHERE I'LL SHOOT?

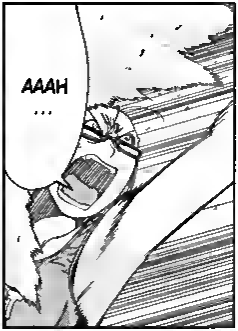
TO DISTRIBUTE THE WEIGHT EQUALLY AND HIT THE BALL ON THE SIDE
CROSS SPIKE
CROSS SPIKE IS A TECHNIQUE THAT REQUIRES LATERAL STEPS...
SPIKE
AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER EXECUTES THE LATERAL STEPS DISCREETLY SO THAT THE OPPONENT CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S ABOUT TO DO
BUT KURACHI GETS CARRIED AWAY BY HER WILL TO SCORE AND MAKES A GIANT STEP
YES THAT SHE ONLY HAD TO WATCH KURACHI'S FEET TO FIND HER WEAKNESS
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL HER?
THE MOVEMENT IS SO FAST THAT THE SPECTATORS DON'T NOTICE IT, BUT...

UNBELIEVABLE! SET POINT FOR HIGASAKI!
. . AND TO KNOW WHERE THE BALL WILL GO.
HIGASAKI B 20 - 18 YAMAGAMI A





CROSS
SPIKE!!


AAAH
...

HIGASAKI B
YAMAGAMI A
2 1
1
AND IT'S OVEEEER!
HIGASAKI WON THE FIRST SET!!

BONUS

I'D GO SEE HUMVEE WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL!
TAHAH
WHAT ERA WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THERE IF YOU HAD A TIME MACHINE?
YAMAGAMI'S HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM
I FORBID YOU, IDIOT!

Masahiro Morio

S T A F F

Takashi Kida

Tohio Koike

I WOULD GO SEE THE ANIMALS FROM THE FUTURE

Tau Horikoshi

Takuma Morishige

I'D PARTICIPATE IN THE RICE RIOTS OF

Today again
IRUKA LEAVES WORK UNFINISHED
WHAT?
TIGER
I WANT TO HAVE THE EYE OF THE TIGER, LIKE ROCKY!!
HEY, TAKKI, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE FORTUNE TELLER THAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT?
A MEDIUM? IN THE NEIGHBOUR-HOOD?
OH, LOOK, IT'S HERE!

TA DAM
DIVINATION
ADULTS: 100 YEN
CHILDREN: 50 YEN
SHUT UP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE WITH AN AFRO?
OKAY! SO WHAT DID I EAT THIS MORNING?
EVERY TIME!
AND YOUR PREDICTIONS? THEY OCCUR?

THIS! EH... ONE OF THESE MEALS ON THE LIST!!
① YAKINIKU
② WANTAN
③ CHEESE
④ SCARABS
WOAH, WAIT A MINUTE! SCARABS?! AND WHAT'S NEXT?!
WHAAAAT? THE 4TH CHOICE WAS THE GOOD ONE?!
DO YOU WANT TO WALK AROUND?
WHY NOT! I HEARD THAT THERE'S A FORTUNE TELLER IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
I'M NOT POOR!
DO I LOOK LIKE I EAT INSECTS, MORON?!
HOSPITAL

次巻ビーチスターズ
The Beach Stars
第6巻は

王者が、ただで終わるはずがない……!!
超注目の第2セットへ!!
勝つためなら
私はどんなことだってできる!!
The Beach Stars
ハツラツ可憐な女子高生達がビーチで
ビキニで大活躍! 超人気、新・爽快青春
ビーチバレーコミック!
大人気につき速攻リリース!!
待望の第6巻は、8/5頃発売予定!!

ビーチスターズ5

ヤングサンデーコミックス

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